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Baseball

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SMART MONEY
Why Other Teams Can't Follow the Marlins' Model

12 THINGS TO WATCH in 2007

Chipper Jones

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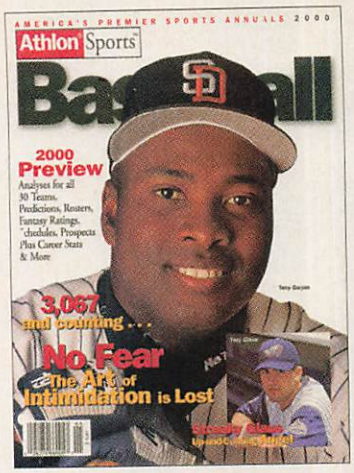
Tony Gwynn

19 2007 Hall of Fame Inductee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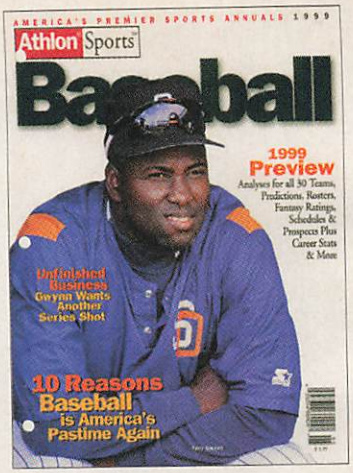
No Fear
The Art of Intimidation is Lost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1999 Preview
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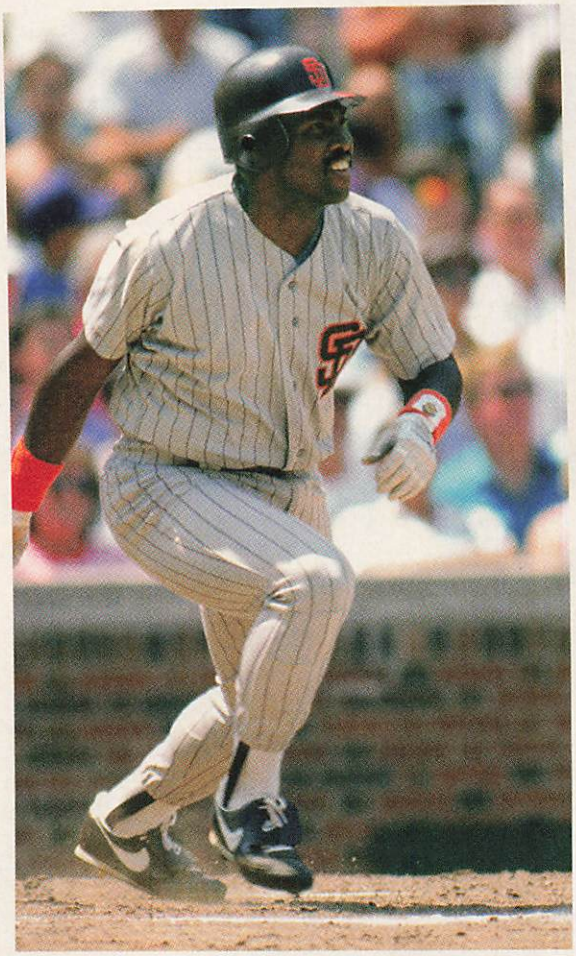
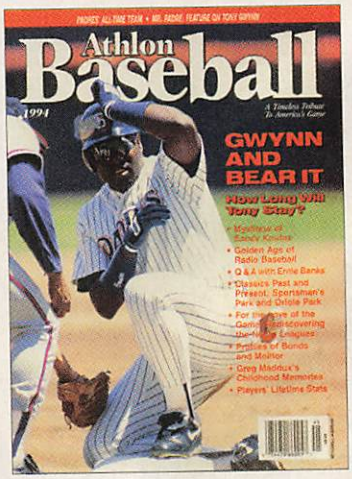
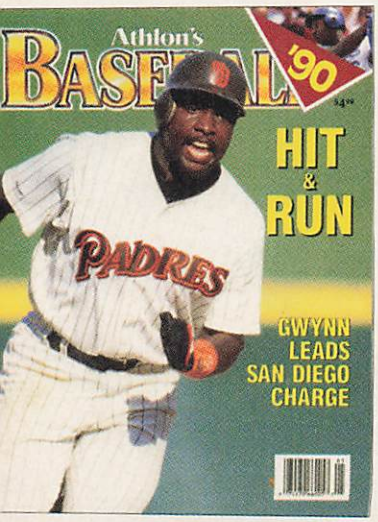
Unfinished Business
Gwynn Wants Another Series Shot
10 Reasons Baseball is America's Pastime Again

ynn was arguably the best pure hitter of his neration. The smooth-swinging lefty d a .338 career batting average over 20 asons. After attending San Diego State, here he played both basketball and seball, Gwynn stayed in San Diego as a ird-round selection of the Padres in the 81 MLB Draft. Gwynn was a 15-time ll-Star, an eight-time NL batting amp and a five-time Gold Glove right elder. "Mr. Padre" never hit below .309 ter his rookie season and carried a .394 verage through 110 games at the time of e 1994 strike – ending his chance to ecome the first player to hit .400 since ed Williams in 1941.





532 Hall of Fame votes (97.6%)
20 seasons, 2,440 games
9,288 AB, 3,141 H, 1,383 R
338 AVG, 135 HR, 1,138 RBI
319 SB, 790 BB, 434 SO



- In 1984, Gwynn's first full season, he hit .351 with five home runs, 71 runs batted in, 33 stolen bases and 88 runs scored, finishing third in NL MVP voting.
- Hit .350 or better in five consecutive seasons from 1993 to 1997 (.358, .394, .368, .353, .372), joining Ty Cobb (11 straight), Rogers Hornsby (six) and Al Simmons (five) as the only players to do so.
- Official address of the Padres' PETCO Park is 19 Tony Gwynn Way, while the San Diego State Aztecs' baseball stadium is named Tony Gwynn Stadium.
- Only player in Western Athletic Conference history to be named all-conference in two different sports, as an outfielder and basketball point guard at San Diego State. Was drafted by the MLB's San Diego Padres (third round) and the NBA's San Diego Clippers (10th round) in 1981.
- Played in two World Series, losing to the Detroit Tigers in 1984 and the New York Yankees in 1998. Carried a .371 batting average with one home run and one stolen base in nine World Series contests.
- Currently the head coach of the San Diego State Aztecs baseball team.

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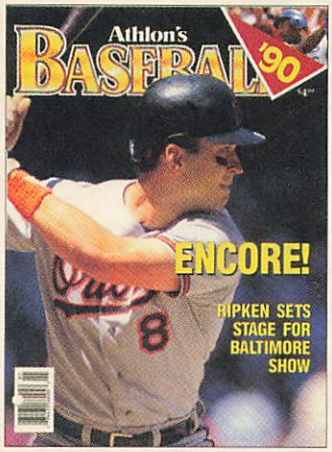

Cal Ripken Jr

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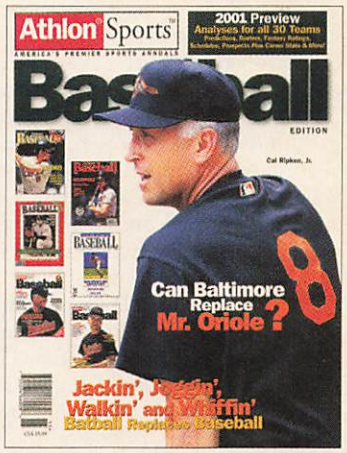
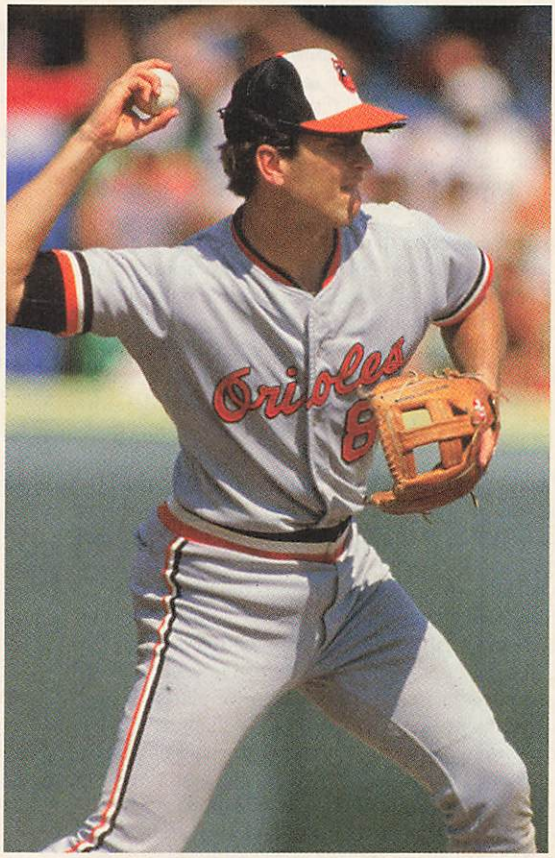
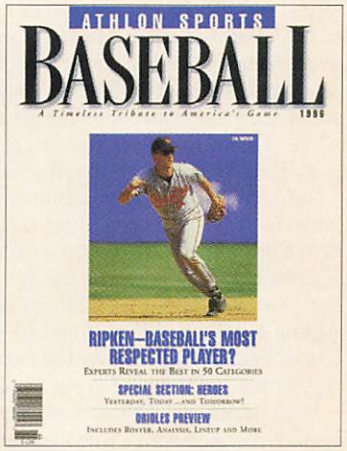
2007 Hall of Fame Inductee



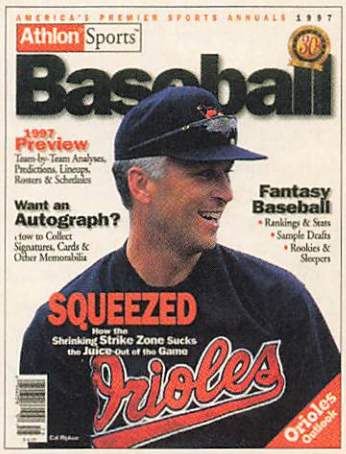
The "Iron Man" played in 2,632 straight games over a 16-year span from May 12, 1982 until Sept. 20, 1998, surpassing Lou Gehrig's 56-year-old consecutive games streak and bringing the spotlight back to baseball on Sept. 6, 1995. The son of longtime Baltimore coach Cal Ripken Sr. was a second-round selection of the Orioles in the 1978 MLB Draft and the 1982 AL Rookie of the Year. During his 21-year career in Baltimore, the 6'4" Ripken broke the mold for shortstops, as a 19-time All-Star, a two-time AL MVP, a two-time All-Star Game MVP, a two-time Gold Glove shortstop and a member of the 1983 World Series champion Orioles.





537 Hall of Fame votes (98.5%)
21 seasons, 3,001 G
11,551 AB 3,184 H, 1,647 R
.276 AVG, 431 HR, 1,695 RBI
36 SB, 1,129 BB, 1,305 SO

- During his 2,131st consecutive game played in "The Streak," Ripken broke Gehrig's record, took a victory lap around Camden Yards and went 2-for-4 with one home run.
- In his second full season, Ripken was named the 1983 AL MVP – hitting .318 with 27 home runs, 102 runs batted in and 121 runs scored – before leading the Orioles past the Phillies in the World Series.
- In 1991, Ripken was named the AL MVP, while winning both the Gold Glove and Silver Slugger at shortstop – batting .323 with 34 home runs and 114 runs batted in. During the 1991 All-Star festivities, Ripken won the Home Run Derby before taking the Game MVP honors to become the first player to win both in the same year.
- In 1990, Ripken set the single-season record for fielding percentage by a shortstop (.996) and committed only three errors.
- Ripken is the home run king at shortstop, hitting 345 of his 431 homers as a shortstop before moving to third base in 1997. The previous record holder was Ernie Banks, who hit 277 of his 512 career home runs as a shortstop.
- As a Triple-A third baseman for the Rochester Red Wings, Ripken was involved in the longest game in professional baseball history – a 3–2 loss to the Pawtucket Red Sox that took 33 innings to settle on April 18, 1981. Ripken manned the Red Wings hot corner, while the Red Sox third baseman was Wade Boggs.



Editor's Letter

Way back in 1987, when Athlon Sports decided to launch a Baseball magazine, the Major League Baseball landscape looked quite a bit different. There were only 26 major league teams, there was only one Griffey — senior — in the bigs, no one associated a humidor with baseball, and there were no teams in the state of Florida and two in Canada. Since then, we've seen the cancellation of the World Series due to a players' strike, two expansion teams in Florida — one of which has won two World Series — two World Series wins for a Canadian team, and the insidious cloud of steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs.

In 2007, Athlon Sports is celebrating its 40th anniversary of publishing sports annuals and its 20th issue covering baseball. During that time we've produced some 460 different covers. Hall of Famers Nolan Ryan, Mike Schmidt, George Brett, Kirby Puckett, Wade Boggs, Robin Yount, Paul Molitor, Carlton Fisk, Ozzie Smith, Eddie Murray, Gary Carter, Dennis Eckersley and Ryne Sandberg are among those who have appeared on our covers. But the two players appearing on the most covers over the past 20 years are recent Hall of Fame inductees Cal Ripken and Tony Gwynn.

I can't imagine two players more deserving for induction than Ripken and Gwynn. They are the first two inductees in the free agency era to spend their entire careers with a single franchise. Both Cal Ripken and Tony Gwynn became the faces of their respective franchises in Baltimore and San Diego. Congratulations to both gentlemen.

Just as Ripken and Gwynn were attaining superstar status, Athlon published its first Baseball magazine. It came on the heels of Mark McGwire's Rookie-of-the-Year season in which he swatted 49 home runs, setting a mark for rookies that still stands. When McGwire retired in 2001, he was considered a first ballot Hall of Famer. But five years of steroid questions, no answers from McGwire and a Congressional hearing later, he received only 128 votes, named on only 23.5 percent of the ballots cast. I suspect he will be elected to the Hall someday, but I must say I feel it's best that it wasn't this year. In July, as Ripken and Gwynn are making acceptance speeches and being lauded all over again, their day in the sun shouldn't be clouded by talk of steroids, performance enhancements and refusals to talk about the past. That day should be reserved for two of the most professional players of our era.

We're proud of our 20-year history covering baseball, and I hope you have enjoyed our magazines as much as we have enjoyed putting them together. We think this edition is one of our best. This winter we have seen a spending spree like none before it. This recent wallet loosening resulted in Gil Meche securing a five-year contract for $55 million, three players signing deals for more than $100 million, Baltimore committing $41 million to its bullpen without signing a closer, and the oft-injured J.D. Drew opting out of a contract that would have guaranteed him $33 million over the next three years. I hope you'll find our assessment of some of the signings entertaining in our annual *Penny Wise and Dollar Foolish* feature on page 34.

Many teams sat out the moneyfest, including the Florida Marlins. Last year, the Marlins began the season with a payroll of less than $15 million, and stayed in the wild card race until the final week of the season. Was that a fluke, or sound fiscal responsibility? And why don't other franchises follow the Marlins' example? We examined these questions in *Smart Money*, beginning on page 28.

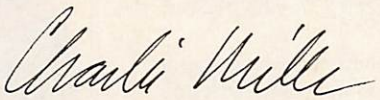
To get you prepped, we have identified 12 stories to follow this season on page 22. The mostly closely followed will be that of Barry Bonds — the most polarizing player in the game — and his pursuit of 756 home runs.

I think you'll find our Fantasy section invaluable for your fantasy team. Don't go to your draft without studying those pages.

Our web site is bigger and better than ever. Follow the baseball season at athlonsports.com. I hope you'll visit often.

I'd love to know what you think about our predictions, our team previews and who you think were the best bargains over the winter. Email me at editor@athlonsports.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Enjoy the season!



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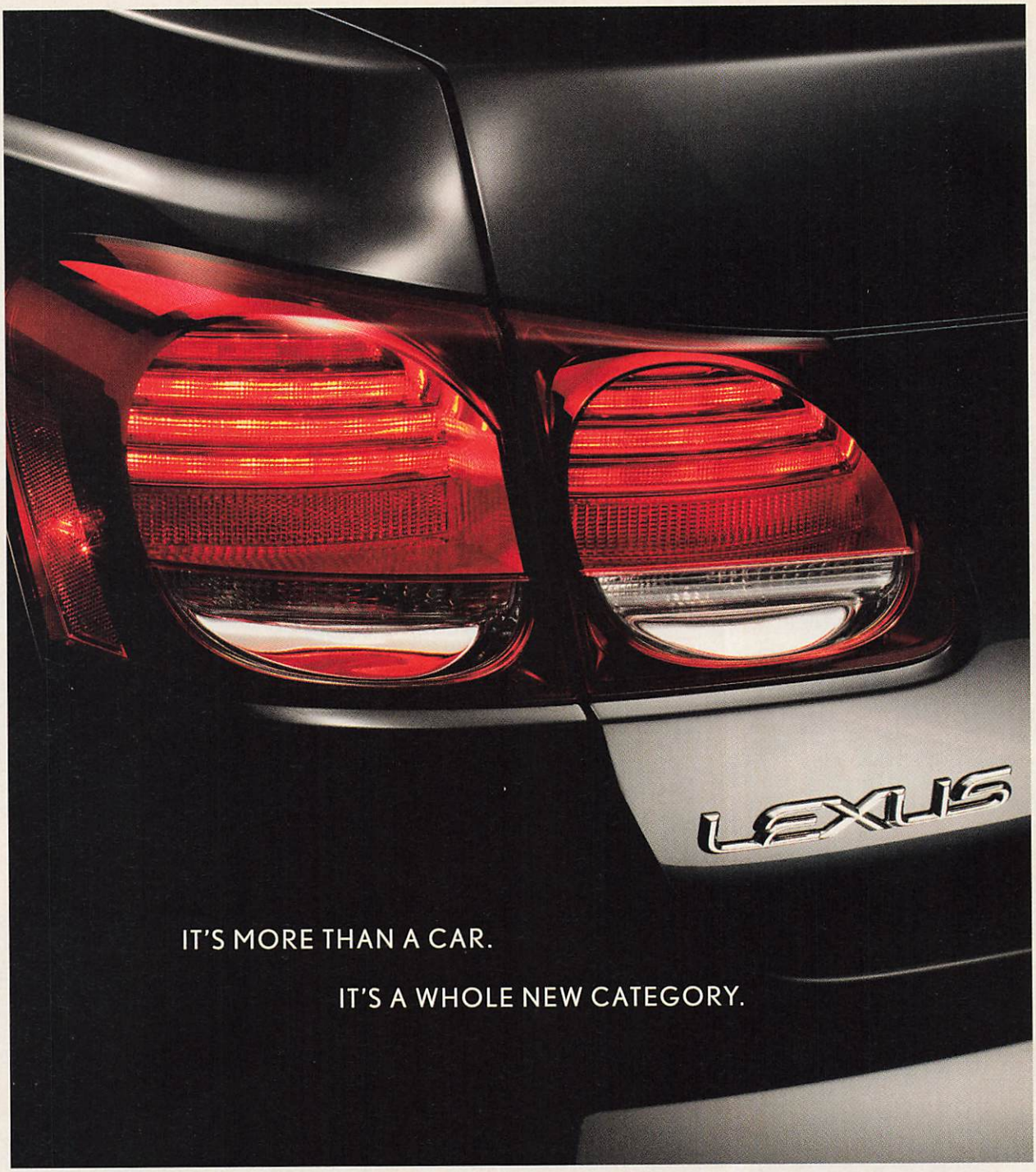

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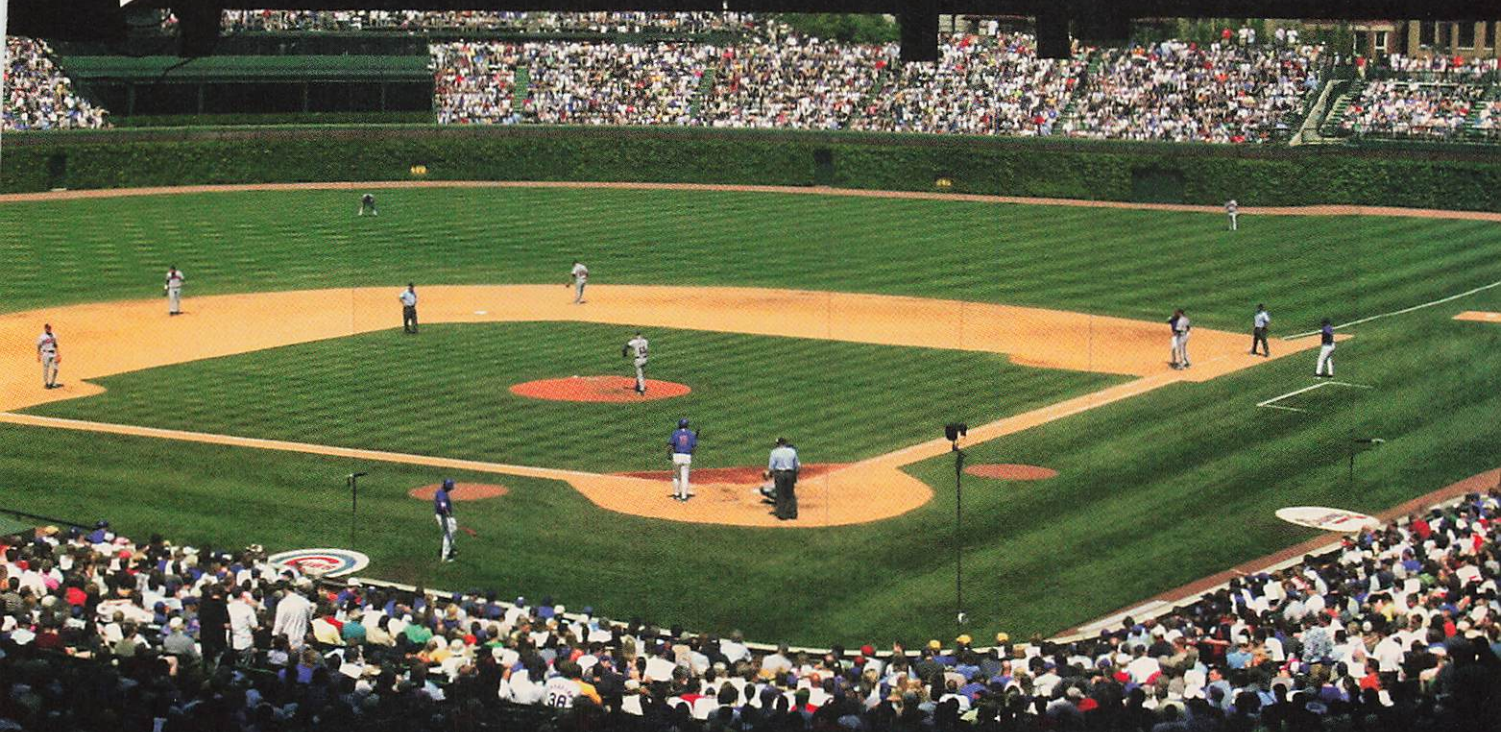

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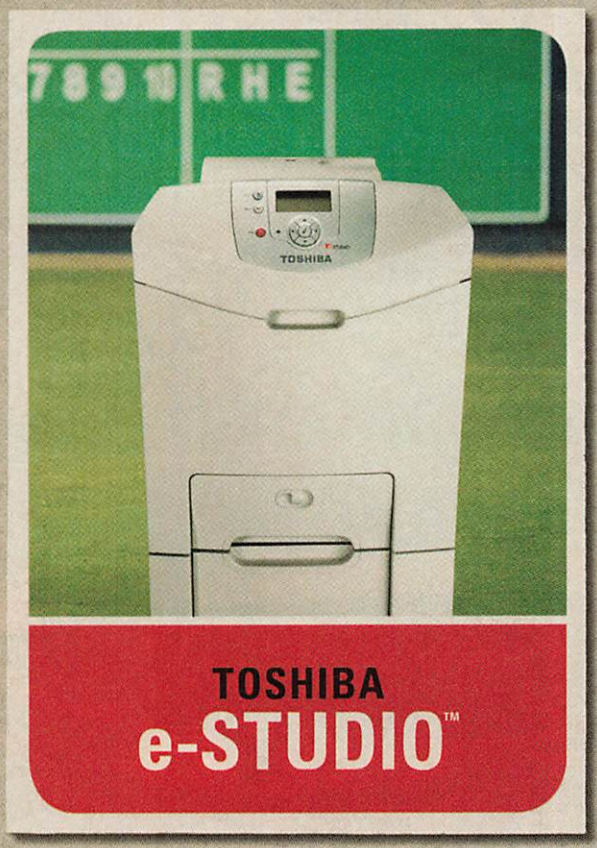

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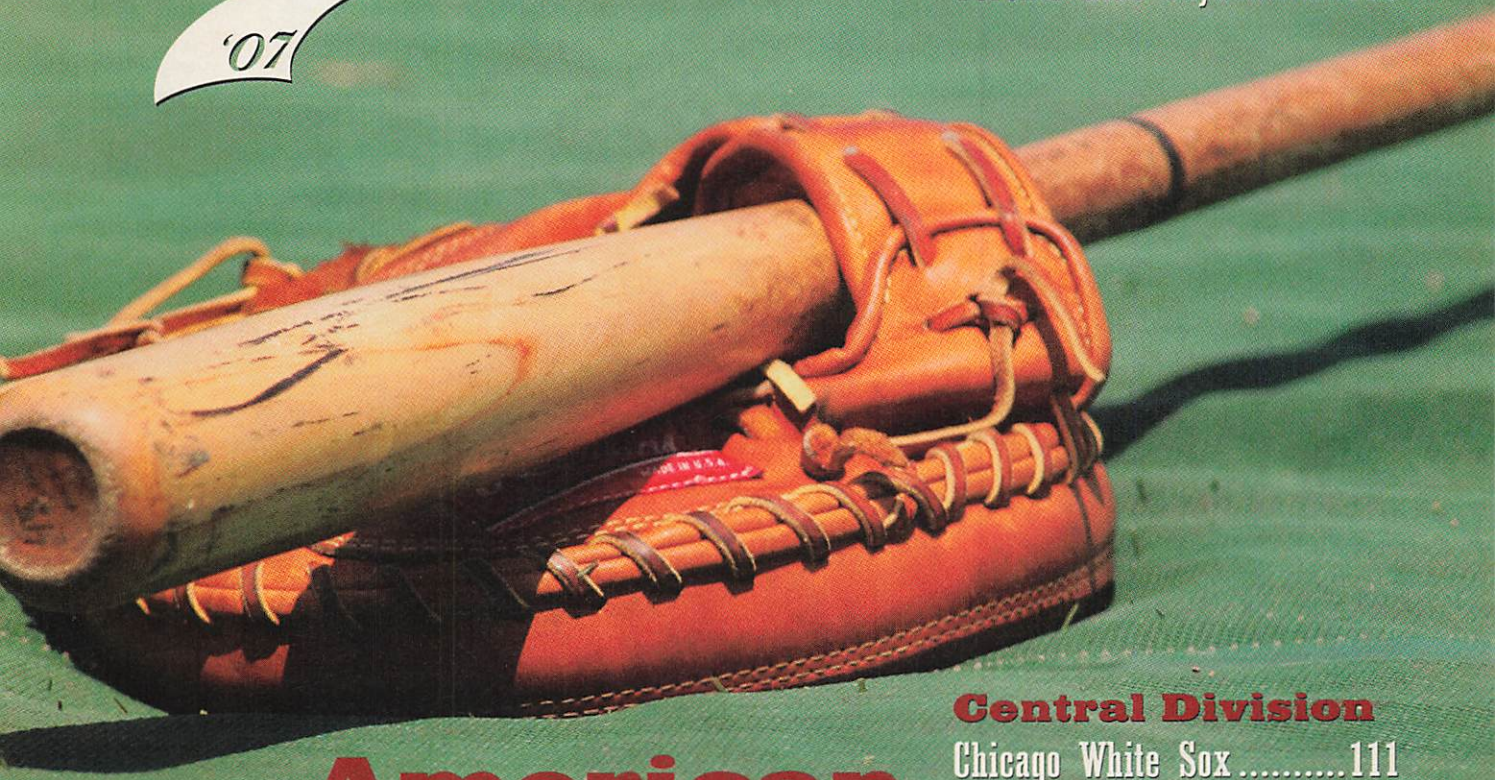

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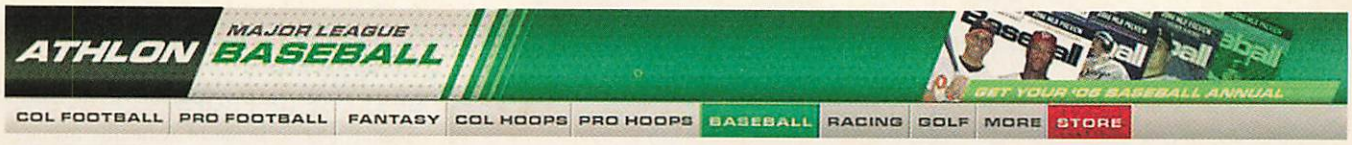
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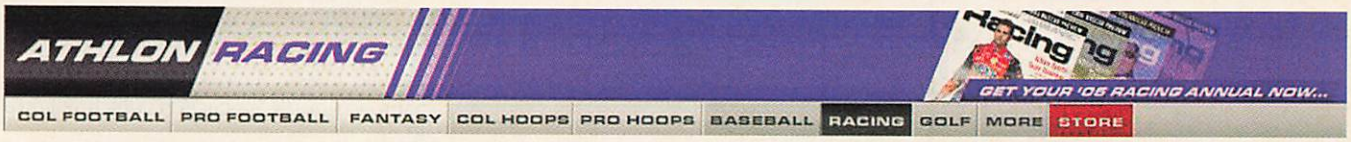
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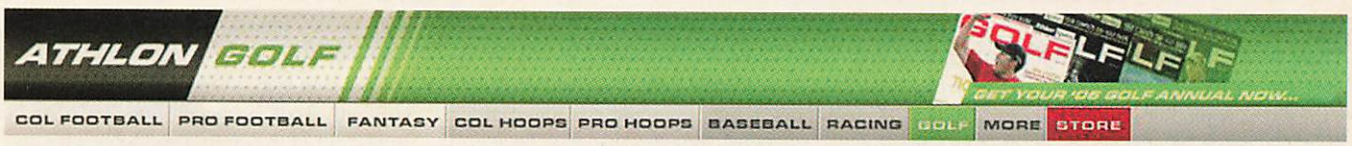
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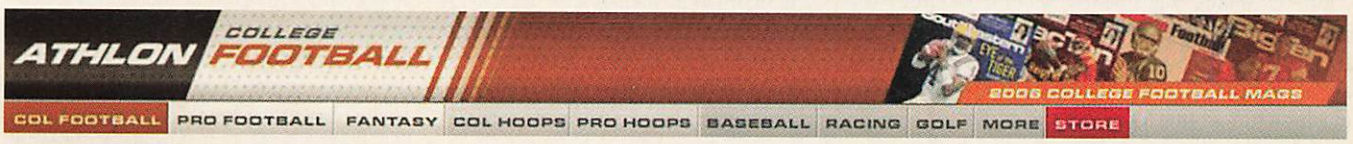
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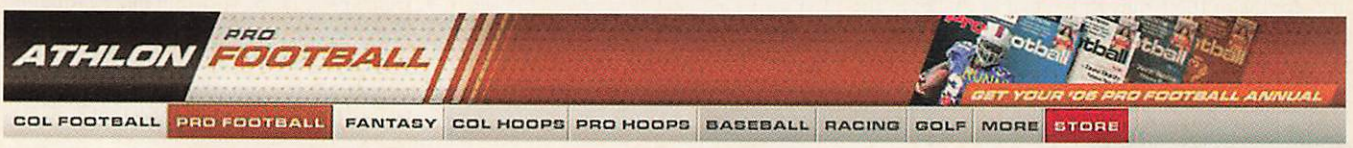
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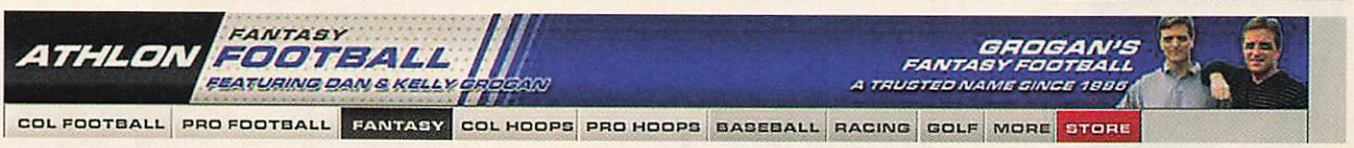
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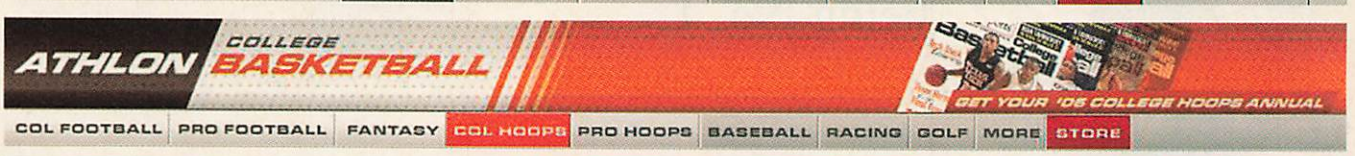
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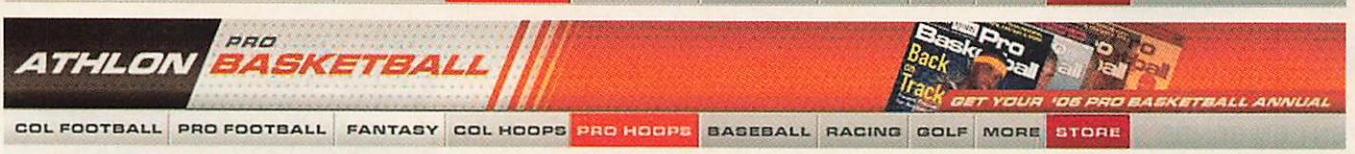
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short HOPS

by Bruce Herman

NO, YOUR OTHER RIGHT

There are few more piteous hitters on the planet than Tomo Ohka. At least that was true until he figured out he'd been batting from the wrong side of the dish all this time. Prior to last Aug. 24, the Brewers pitcher had been 30-for-230 with 90 strikeouts in his career and was mired in a 10-for-102 "slump." But that day, about to face the Rockies, the righthander had an idea: Try batting lefty. "I thought, 'Man, as bad as you're swinging, just do whatever you want,'" sighed manager Ned Yost. Ohka's first time up (with the bases loaded) he came out of his shoes, swinging so hard at the first pitch he did a pirouette. On the second offering, his bat hit the catcher's mitt, inducing a run-scoring interference call. The 30-year-old Japanese import batted twice more in the game, driving in three runs with a pair of singles in the 12–6 win. That gave him ribbies in each plate appearance and a total of four in five innings — more than he'd ever had in an entire season. Yost, afraid Ohka would bounce into double plays, admitted, "I was just hoping he didn't hit the ball."

> "You're not even close to being No. 1."
>
> — What Royals pitcher Zack Greinke said he told his girlfriend, explaining how much he loved baseball, during his anxiety-induced sabbatical last year.

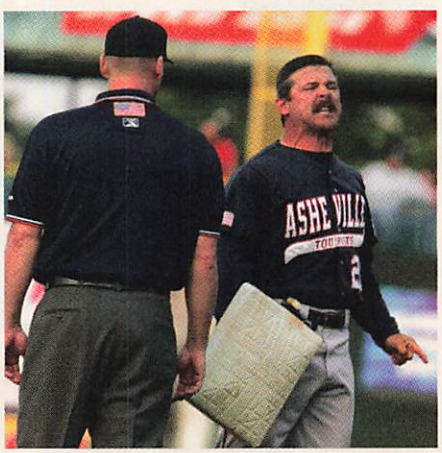
KENT ON BONDS

No, not Jeff — although he'd have plenty to say about his former teammate, if he chose to. We're talking about Lew, who once pinch-hit for the irascible slugger at Arizona State. Lew Kent, now the head baseball coach at Radford University, has few pleasant memories of his brush with Bonds. Asked by *Roanoke Times* columnist Aaron McFarling if he knew a quarter-century ago that he was in the presence of greatness, Kent replied, "I knew I was in the presence of a — well, I can't say that on the record." The future home run anti-hero was so disliked at ASU, Kent recalled, that coach Jim Brock once held a team meeting to ask who wanted Bonds to remain on the team. Two players raised their hands. Another time, a particularly large player had to be pried off from choking the then-slender outfielder who, says Kent, received nauseatingly preferential treatment from the coaches. If Kent took anything positive from the experience it was this: He got an RBI hit.

AND NOW THE ESPY FOR "BEST USE OF PROPS"

The apoplectic tirade of Asheville manager Joe Mikulik at an umpire during a South Atlantic League game last June is now a YouTube classic. Low-budget as it was, its charm was in the production, which required only a:

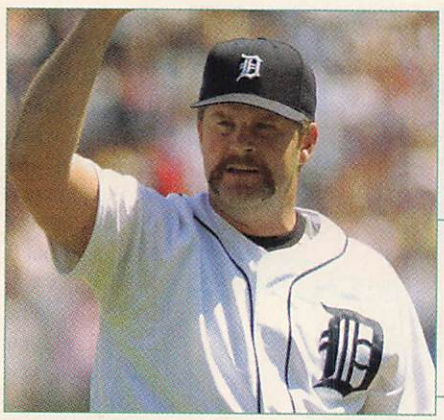
- Hat: to be slung away by Mikulik in the opening act
- Second base bag: into which he slid to show the ump what happened and, later, to be ripped out of the ground and lobbed for dramatic effect
- Resin bag: for him to hurl toward first base
- PA system: to play "You've Lost That Loving Feeling" as a soundtrack
- Home plate: to be buried in dirt by Mikulik
- Water bottle: as utilized by the manager to wash off said dirt so he could point and explain to the ump what a home plate was
- Handful of bats: to be whirlybirded out of the dugout
- Catcher's box: into which Mikulik could squat to reenact the play
- Batting practice screen, chair and two water coolers: to be stacked up after he retreated to the clubhouse to barricade shut the door to the umpire's dressing room
- Microphone: into which Mikulik summed up his opinion by telling the media, "I could get two mannequins at Sears to umpire better."



Mikulik: AP/Wide World; Greinke: Jed Jacobsohn/Getty Images

IT'S ONLY A FLESH WOUND

No player had a more menacing 2006 season than Giants rookie infielder Kevin Frandsen. His minor league tour consisted of two games in A-ball, in which in was hit by pitches twice, plus 71 contests in Triple-A, where he was plunked 14 times. In between, the 24-year-old was summoned to San Francisco four times, where he was smacked both by a shaving cream pie from teammates after a three-hit debut and by pitches in each of his first three games. Just days later, Frandsen proved a hazard to others as well. While taking B.P., he fouled back a pitch, heard a yelp and a curse, and turned to see The Franchise — Barry Bonds — flat on his back, the ball having ricocheted off his supersized melon. Said Frandsen, "I thought I was going to come in and my locker would be cleaned out." The last of the hapless rookie's recalls came on Aug. 14. He showed up from Fresno with his face swollen, the product of fouling a bunt off his face that broke his jaw in two places.



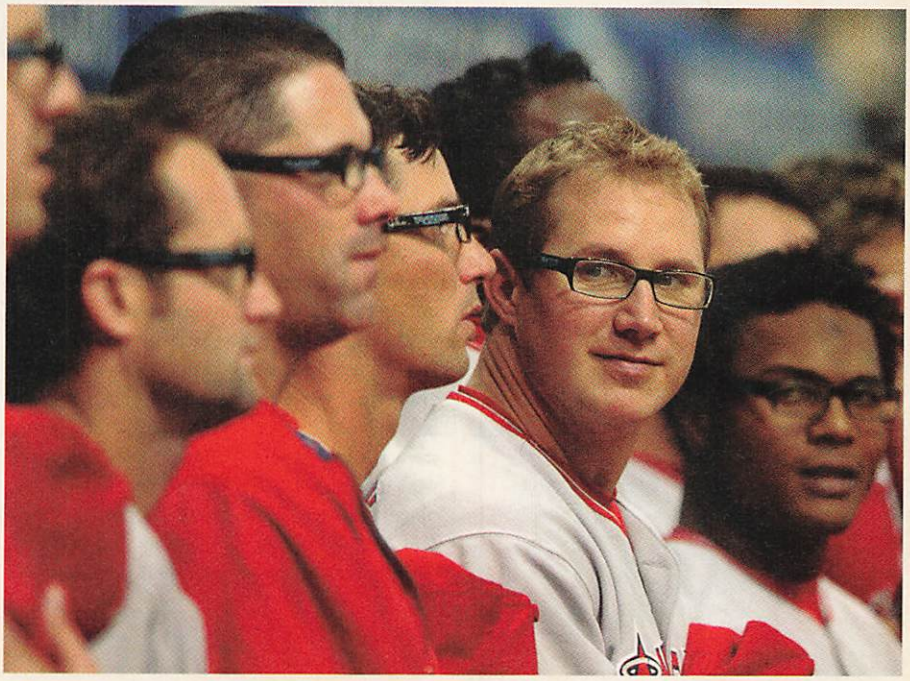
10 REASONS YOU GOTTA LOVE CHRIS COSTE

1. Like Roger Maris, the Phillies catcher grew up in Fargo, North Dakota.
2. He's played baseball in five countries, toiled five seasons in independent leagues and, in 2005, came within an eyelash of signing to play in Korea. ("Playing baseball is like pizza," he says. "Even when it's bad, it's still good.")
3. While with Fargo-Moorhead of the Northern League, he was married on their field, worked in the front office and hosted a radio show called "Tough Guy Radio," for which he was paid $12 a day.
4. He wrote a book in 1997 called, *Hey! I'm Just the Catcher*, about life in the minors — inspired, he says, by a teammate who got naked when the bus air conditioner broke down.
5. He was signed and released by the Pirates, Indians, Red Sox and Brewers before the Phillies inked him in 2004.
6. In 2003, he penned another book, *RollerCoster: A Ride Through the Minor Leagues*, which is slated to be released nationally this year.
7. At 33 in 2006, Coste was the oldest Phillie in 61 seasons to make his MLB debut. He wound up batting .328 — best in 73 years by a Phils catcher with 200 plate appearances.
8. His first visit to a big league base came when he was hit by a pitch; and in his first four defensive innings, he was involved in both catcher's and batter's interference calls.
9. Winner of the team's Dallas Green Award as its most inspirational player, he has a fan club that takes up residence in left field at Citizens Bank Park called "The Coste Guard Crew."
10. There is talk of making a movie of his odyssey. If it happens, he'd like to be played by Matthew McConaughey.

> "Their clubhouse guy does a good job of hiding his antenna because he must be from another planet."
>
> — Todd Jones on Albert Pujols

MAKING A SPECTACLE OF HIMSELF

Joe Maddon, baseball's most polysyllabic manager, is a curious choice also to be its most fashion-forward. A native of tiny, economically meager Hazelton, Pa. — a one-time coal-mining berg where ethnic residents refer to pizza as "pitz" — the Devil Rays' skipper allowed his girlfriend to pick out his new glasses frames in 2005. Her selection convinced him, "I was going to take a lot of crap in spring training." He did, of course — but his 1950s-styled, black-rimmed spectacles also have earned Maddon an added measure of celebrity. In an April game, the Rays distributed 15,000 replicas as a promotion. And when the Angels first visited St. Pete, the entire team paid tribute to their former coach by donning a similar pair on the top step of the dugout for the national anthem. The popularity of his peepers, which were hand-made in Italy, is easily explained. As his companion told the *St. Petersburg Times*, they are "old school yet new age" and offer "simplicity vs. drama."



Glasses: AP/Wide World; Coste: Mitchell Layton/Getty Images
Jones: Mark Cunningham/MLB/Getty Images

LIFE IMITATING ART...IN CLEVELAND

A few years back a movie called "Fausto 5.0" was released in Spain with the tagline, "Some desires can become nightmares." That was manager Eric Wedge's fate when his Indians traded Bob Wickman last July under the assumption that their own Fausto — Carmona — was ready to be the closer. Here's how that plot unraveled:

- July 30: Carmona failed to safeguard a tie by allowing four runs in the ninth leading of a 7–3 Seattle win.
- July 31: He served David Ortiz a game-ending three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth, 9–8.
- Aug. 2: He surrendered a walk-off, two-out, bases-loaded double to Mark Loretta for a 6–5 defeat.
- Aug. 5: He gave up a two-run homer to Ivan Rodriguez in the bottom of the ninth for a 4–3 loss.

Sum total of the week's damage by Carmona: Four games, 2.2 innings, 8 hits, 11 runs, 37.12 ERA, three hit batters, four losses, three blown saves, three walk-off hits. The film, we should add, was a horror tale about a guy whose stomach was removed yet managed to live for years, promising to grant his doctor his every wish. Tribe manager Wedge lost his stomach for Fausto soon enough and survived the season, but he is still wishing for a closer.

A LASTINGS IMPRESSION

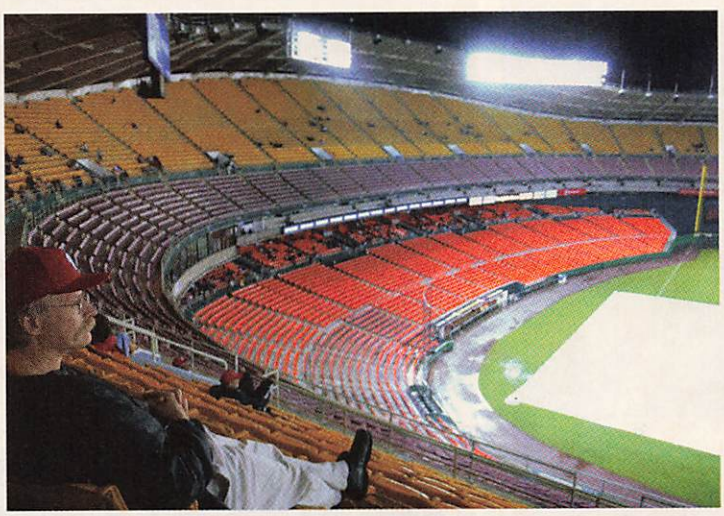
"Know Your Place, Rook"

— Your Teammates

— Sign hung on brash Mets rookie Lastings Milledge's locker after he had mouthed off to a veteran.

HOW LATE WAS IT?

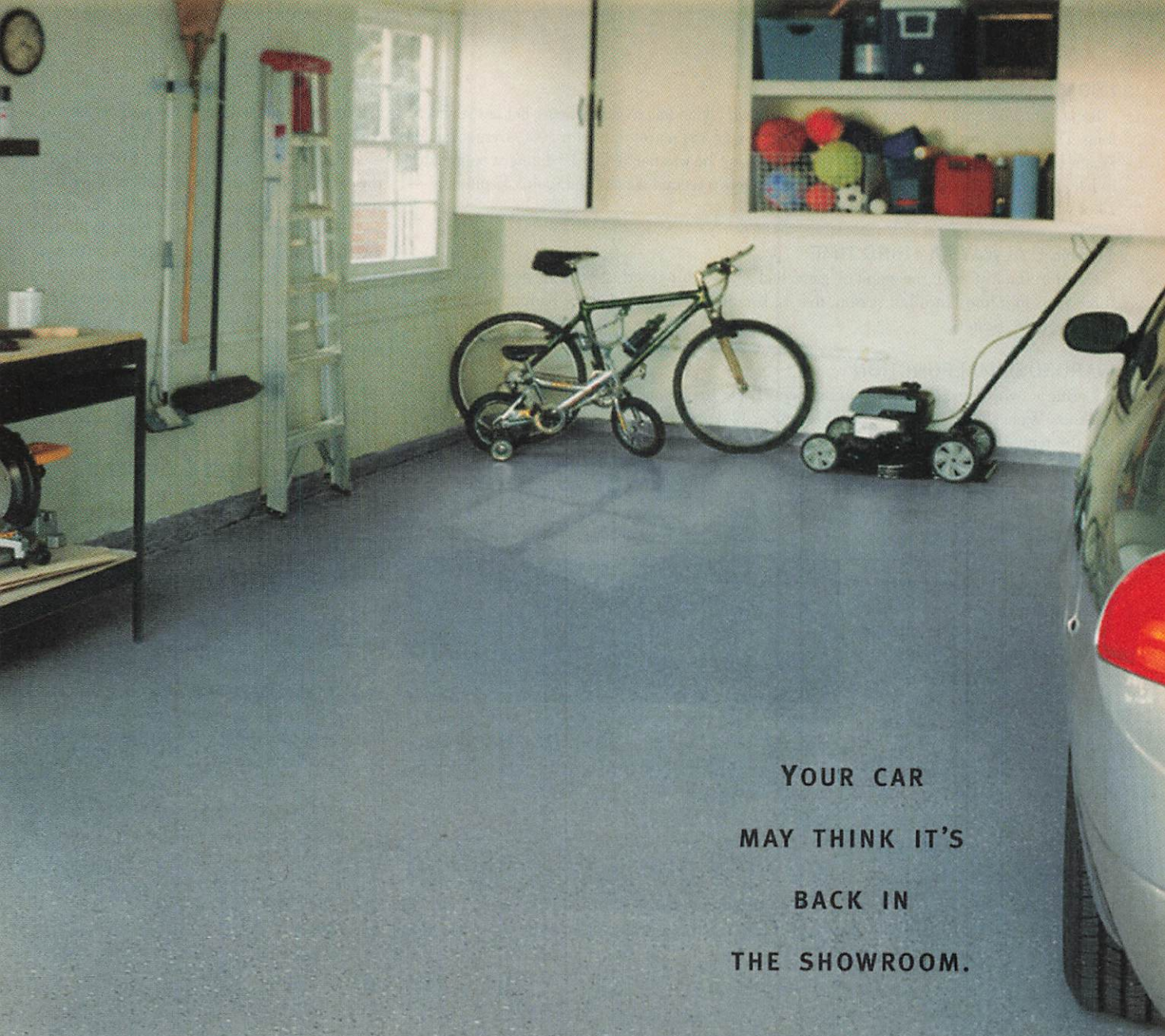
So late that the RFK Stadium cleaning crew began sweeping the upper deck before the game started. So late that the ushers went home. So late that the concession stands closed 90 minutes prior to the first pitch. So late that the last out was seen by only a few hundred fans. For four hours, 27 minutes, the Nationals and Phillies waited to start their game on Sept. 28 — 28 minutes before Sept. 29 actually — their persistence owing to its import to the wild card chase. By the time the Nats eked out a 3–1 win, it was 2:07 a.m. The tiny crowd that stuck it out consisted mostly of rowdies visiting from Philly who provided as much entertainment as the game itself. Clustered in the front rows were the hardcores (some shirtless despite 50-degree temps), easily heard in the empty stadium cussing Nats players (but singing Happy Birthday to 22-year-old Ryan Zimmerman), booing a 10-foot tall Thomas Jefferson who took a spectacular fall in the fourth-inning "Presidents Race," chanting "Harry Kallas" at the PA announcer and taunting the Washington mascot. Even Nats president Stan Kasten got in the spirit of things, sitting behind home plate holding a sign that read "Ball Game Today." "I don't know if we'll ever experience that kind of atmosphere again," waxed catcher Brian Schneider. And oh by the way, the two teams had played a 14-inning marathon the night before that had lasted just short of five hours.



COMING TO A YARD SALE NEAR YOU

Despite their team's enduring success and annual photo-finishes, fans continue to avoid watching baseball games in Oakland. Last season, when the A's ranked 26th in attendance, nearly half the team's home games were promotional days intended to bribe patrons into showing up at McAfee Coliseum. Some of the giveaways were traditional — caps, shirts, baseball cards and so forth. But others ranged from the novel to the bizarre: a wine stopper with a statuette of a player on top, a poker set, player magnets, an oven mitt/potholder combo and the ever-popular ketchup and mustard squeeze-bottle duo emblazoned with the A's logo.

Carmona: Jamie Squire/Getty Images; RFK: AP/Wide World



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I DON'T KNOW YOU FROM ADAM

Rangers prospects almost always have to go through Oklahoma to get to Texas, but few stay very long. The team's Triple-A affiliate enacted a staggering 184 player moves in 2006. Center fielder Adam Hyzdu led the team with 128 games played, but he was flanked by 13 different teammates in left. The RedHawks also used 11 third basemen, eight second sackers and (gulp) 37 pitchers — 24 of whom worked fewer than 30 innings.

THERE'S ALWAYS A THIRD TIME

Never in the history of the grand ol' game had a player hit exactly 15 or exactly 16 home runs three years in a row. Until last season, that is. Khalil Greene and Michael Barrett, respectively, were the three-peaters.

WARDROBE MALFUNCTION

During a Twins game last April, pitcher Scott Baker summoned Joe Mauer. "My cup is down to my knee. What should I do?" he asked his catcher. "I don't know. I can't help you with that one," was the reply. The batterymates decided to call manager Ron Gardenhire to the mound, who obtained permission from the umpire for Baker to retreat to the clubhouse for an adjustment. "From center field, I thought he had to use the restroom," said Torii Hunter.

ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM

Joel "Zoom Zoom" Zumaya — the Tigers' 2006 rookie reliever — may be setting new standards for velocity. Baseball Info Solutions tallied 233 pitches of his last season that hit 100 miles-per-hour. Here's the context: That's 207 more than any other pitcher in baseball and more than double the number thrown by every other pitcher combined. And keep in mind that Zumaya worked only 83.1 innings. Opposing hitters compiled a .514 OPS off his heaters — the lowest versus any pitcher in the game.

HOT DATE

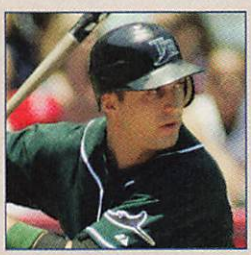
It has been said that most baseball players are creatures of habit. To wit, in 2006: Vladimir Guerrero hit a home run on his first swing of the season for the second straight year; for the third straight campaign, Kazuo Matsui went yard in his first at-bat; Rocco Baldelli played for the third time on his mother's birthday, homering in each; Lance Berkman touched 'em all on Sept. 21 for the sixth straight year; and Derrek Lee went deep on his fourth consecutive birthday — this one a grand slam.

> "It's a sign from the heavens that I must select LaMont Jordan first in my fantasy draft."
>
> — Mark DeRosa, whose second three-run homer in as many innings on Aug. 9 banged off an Oakland Raiders advertising banner.

SO HOW DID THAT WORK OUT, AL?

Back in 2003, Dodgers scout Al LaMacchia said that Rocco Baldelli was "the closest thing to Joe DiMaggio I've ever seen." We get the Italian kinsmanship and all, but:

Through Age 25:	AB	R	H	RBI	HR	AVG
DiMaggio	2,827	613	970	691	168	.343
Baldelli	1,519	227	439	209	43	.289



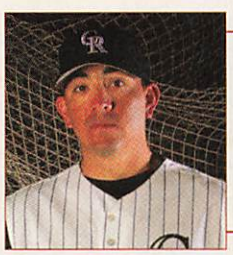
ONE DAY IN BASEBALL: 9/2/06

Miguel Tejada catches a line drive for the second out of the eighth inning and sprints off the field. Six teammates follow him.

Scott Mathieson strikes out the only batter he faces in a start, yet allows a run. (His victim reached on a third-strike wild pitch and scored after the rookie was removed with an injury.)

Something that had not happened since 1898 occurs for the second time in 368 days as a player (Kevin Kouzmanoff) hits a grand slam in his first major league at-bat. He is the Indians' DH because their regular one — Travis Hafner, who hit a record-tying seven grannies in 2006 — is hurt.

The Devil Rays pull off the first 2-6-2 triple play in history.



> "Scenario games — like, would you rather open-mouth kiss a bum or get into a sleeping bag full of baby oil with your manager?"
>
> — Brian Fuentes describing what goes on in the bullpen.

> "A little guy who lives in my head who talks to me and I talk to him."
>
> — Ryan Freel explaining to reporters who his buddy "Farney" is.

Zumaya: Mark Cunningham/MLB/Getty Images; DiMaggio: Baseball HOF/Getty Images
Baldelli: Robert Leiter/MLB/Getty Images; Fuentes: Stephen Dunn/Getty Images

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MARCH 14: Barry Bonds plunks down a successful sacrifice bunt in a spring training game — something he's done once in the last 16 regular seasons.
MARCH 16: The USA is eliminated from the WBC by Mexico as Roger Clemens gives up six hits in 4.1 innings. That's two more than he allowed to Mexican-born Major Leaguers during the previous decade.
APRIL 3: Jimmy Rollins keeps alive his hitting streak at 37 games when, in his final at-bat, he swings at 3-0 pitch for only the second time in his career and doubles.
APRIL 6: In his first game as a knuckleball pitcher, R.A Dickey ties a modern record by serving up six home runs to the Tigers.
APRIL 6: An Adam Dunn home run in Cincinnati hits a moving car beyond the center field wall. The driver stops, retrieves the ball and speeds off.
APRIL 7: The Mets hit their 10,000th double in their 7,000th game.
APRIL 8: Padres pitcher Dewon Brazelton allows a hit to every Rockies starter before the end of the second inning.
APRIL 11: After entering the season 4-for-55 with no homers and 33 strikeouts in his career, Reds pitcher Bronson Arroyo takes the Cubs' Glendon Rusch deep for the second time in a week.
APRIL 12: Baltimore starter Danny Cabrera walks nine Devil Rays and strikes out 10, throwing three wild pitches among his 117 offerings in five innings. Tampa Bay gets just one run off him and leaves 11 runners on base, but wins anyway.
APRIL 13: The Dodgers' Cody Ross becomes the second major leaguer whose first two homers were grand slams, joining Craig Counsell.
APRIL 15: Eric Chavez, Frank Thomas and Milton Bradley homer on successive Vicente Padilla pitches.
APRIL 16: For the first time ever, a visiting team — the Phillies — wins a 1–0 game at Coors Field.
APRIL 16: Javy Lopez hits a ball into the center field seats but is credited with only a single because he passes Miguel Tejada on the base paths.
APRIL 18: Eight natives of Venezuela are starting pitchers — the first time that's ever happened. Two others hail from Mexico.

CALENDAR OF THE WEIRD

A CHRONOLOGY OF ODDBALL OCCURRENCES FROM THE 2006 SEASON

> "My Little League coaches could tell you I'd be rolling up to practice in that old '89 Cutlass."
>
> — Padres pitcher Dewon Brazelton, who said that, because of family circumstances, he was driving at age 12.

APRIL 18: The Astros' all-time record stands at 3,507-3,507 — the first time the franchise has reached .500 since April 27, 1962, 12 games into its history.
APRIL 18: For the first time in his career, after going 151–0, Randy Johnson loses a game in which he is staked to a four-run lead.
APRIL 21: The Royals' scoreless streak reaches 20 innings, then they score four of their five runs in a game against Cleveland on sacrifice flies.
APRIL 23: Miguel Tejada is the first player since 1969 to get his team's only four hits in a game.
APRIL 24: Geoff Jenkins, who had not even attempted a swipe in two of the previous three seasons, steals home.
APRIL 26: The Yankees draw 14 walks in a loss to Tampa Bay, but none score.
APRIL 27: The Twins' 21st game of the year is the first in which they do not trail at some point.
MAY 6: Jay Payton steals the first AL base of his career when he strolls to second as teammate Dan Johnson heads to first base on ball three. As everyone had lost track of the count, there is no play on Payton.
MAY 14: Mark Buehrle is the first AL pitcher ever to win a game after allowing seven first-inning runs, as the White Sox overtake the Twins, 9–7.
MAY 16: The Molina brothers, cumbersome catchers Bengie and Jose, steal a base against each other in the same game. (They came in with eight in 1,019 major league games.)
MAY 16: For the third time in May, Jacque Jones is picked off a base following an outfield fly out.
MAY 17: San Diego starter Mike Thompson is staked to a nine-run lead over Arizona before he throws his first major league pitch.
MAY 20: Bill Evers concludes his two-game stint as the Devil Rays' interim manager by going 2–0 thanks to back-to-back walk-off homers.
MAY 28: The Braves hit a franchise-record record eight home runs while scoring 13 runs. Their opponents, the Cubs, hit none in scoring 12.
MAY 29: The only Pirates starter not to drive in a run in a pasting of the Brewers is Jason Bay, who'd homered in the previous six games.
MAY 31: Yankees second baseman Miguel Cairo records five assists and a putout from the first six batters of the game.
JUNE 3: The Mets' streak of opening a home series with a walk-off win ends at six when they lose the first game of a DH to the Giants — but they walk off again in the nightcap.
JUNE 4: The two longest active streaks of winless pitching starts end on the same day — 16 by Mark Redman and 15 by Doug Waechter.
JUNE 6: It's draft day, and the Elias Sports Bureau reports that eight of the 34 major leaguers to hit home runs were picked no higher than 645th.
JUNE 7: The Rockies tie a record for a nine-inning game with five sacrifice flies — all in the first five innings.
JUNE 10: Every Rockies run is scored by a different player in their 12–9 win over the Dodgers.
JUNE 11: Ex-Red Sox Kevin Millar, knowing that Boston was arriving in Minnesota the next day, leaves a bag of dog doo on the visiting manager's desk for Terry Francona.
JUNE 13: The Twins get their first homer all year from a starting DH.
JUNE 14: Two Devil Rays who strike out reach base in the same inning, one on a passed ball and the other on a wild pitch.
JUNE 18: Adam Loewen is the first starting pitcher ever to oppose former Cy Young Award winners in his first four starts. (He went 0–2.)
JUNE 22: Miguel Cabrera reaches out and pokes the first pitch of an intentional walk for a go-ahead single in the 10th inning in a win over Baltimore.
JUNE 24: 43-year-old Jamie Moyer is the oldest pitcher to get a hit since Hoyt Wilhelm, 44, in 1967.
JUNE 28: Oakland's first pinch-hit of the season (after 23 at-bats) is the first hit of Doug Clark's major league career.

> "If you know that, you're a nerd."
>
> — Adam Dunn to a writer who informed him that his grand slam was the second in Reds history to erase a three-run deficit and win a game in walk-off fashion.

JULY 1: Aramis Ramirez and Mike Lamb each miss a cycle by a lowly single.
JULY 1: Boston's major league-record streak of 17 consecutive games without an error ends when the Sox make two in a span of five pitches.
JULY 8: For the first time in 29 years, in a Mets-Marlins match-up, four rookie pitchers start in a doubleheader.
JULY 14: Baseball welcomes its first-ever all-40-something outfield in Barry Bonds, Steve Finley and Moises Alou.
JULY 15: Brian Roberts Bobblehead Day at Camden Yards is cancelled because the dolls have black skin.
JULY 15: Six saves are blown as, for the first time in almost 28 seasons, no saves are recorded on a day in which every team played.
JULY 16: The Cubs allow two grand slams in one inning to the Mets — something neither team had ever done before.
JULY 17: Braves pitcher Jorge Sosa gets his third hit in 20 at-bats this season — all home runs.
JULY 18: The Mets' Mike Pelfrey becomes the first pitcher to be supported by a grand slam in each of his first two major league starts.

JULY 19: Tony Gwynn Jr. doubles for his first major league hit 24 years to the day after his dad doubled for his first hit.
JULY 22: Ryan Zimmerman knocks into peculiar 1-4-2 and 9-2 double plays in the first three innings, with Alfonso Soriano the guy gunned down at the plate both times.
JULY 24: Cole Hamels records 12 of his 16 outs on strikeouts but allows three homers and seven runs to the Braves.
AUG. 4: Orlando Hernandez strikes out the Phillies' Abraham Nunez on a 52-mph pitch.
AUG. 10: The Twins distribute replica Joe Mauer sideburns to the first 10,000 fans.
AUG. 11: The Rangers, joining the Braves, become the second team this year to score seven or more first-inning runs on just two hits.
AUG. 12: As of the conclusion of the day's action, every NL West team has spent at least 20 days in first place.
AUG. 15: For the first time ever, there are two 18-inning games on the same day, as the Cubs top the Astros and the Diamondbacks nip the Rockies.
AUG. 15: Jose Reyes, who earlier had hit for the cycle in a loss, pounds three homers in a loss.
AUG. 22: Carlos Silva is the first non-rookie pitcher ever to allow three home runs in one game to a rookie batter (Nick Markakis).
AUG. 23: The Royals set a team record with 10 first-inning runs but lose to the Indians, 15–13 in 10 innings.
AUG. 24: The Giants hire a "Rally Rabbi" to fire up the crowd on Jewish Heritage Night.
AUG. 26: A drink is brought to Robinson Cano in the middle of his at-bat so that he can wash down a sunflower seed lodged in his throat.
SEPT. 1: The Red Sox learn Jon Lester has lymphoma, announce Curt Schilling will miss his next start with an oblique strain, allow Kyle Snyder to pitch despite back pain and remove Jonathan Papelbon from the game because of a shoulder injury.
SEPT. 5: Despite two rainouts, there are seven shutouts (one shy of the record).
SEPT. 9: Elias reports that, for the first time ever, two players whose last name begins with "U" (Dan Uggla and Chase Utley) hit home runs in the same game.
SEPT. 12: The Cubs win a game against the Dodgers in which they trail 7–0, commit six errors and leave 21 men on base.
SEPT. 23: Laura Gibbons suffers bruised ribs when struck by a foul ball off the bat of her husband Jay.

TOO MANY COOKS?

By the end of May, it was hard to tell a Felix Hernandez start from an episode of "House." Every outing spawned a new theory on what ailed the 20-year-old would-be phenom, who yoked with a 5.84 ERA in his first nine appearances. Here's the timeline:

April 7: "I think we saw the result of not pitching a game (in 14 days because of shin splints)," said manager Mike Hargrove after a 100-pitch, five-inning struggle.

April 13: "His trouble was more mental than anything else," Hargrove surmised after seeing him allow five runs in 4.2 innings. Hernandez disagreed: "I was crossing my left leg over."

April 27: "This is a kid who throws 97 with movement," observed a scout who questioned catcher Kenji Johjima's pitch selection. "Why is he throwing the No. 8 hitter a change, curve, change?" This time it was pitching coach Rafael Chaves' turn to differ: "I'm seeing enough fastballs."

April 30: After Hernandez allowed 13 base runners in another five-inning stint, Hargrove posited that he was tipping his pitches, and mobilized the staff into the video room.

May 4: Hernandez failed to get into the sixth again, allowing four more runs. "It's not that he's tipping his pitches," concluded Chaves. "He needs to make a couple of changes mechanically different."

May 9: Both Hernandez and Chaves said the front shoulder had been opening, but Hargrove's observation was that the pitcher hadn't been mentally ready during the early innings.

May 19: Chaves now said that his pitcher's "effort level is leading to overstriding."

May 21: Hargrove blamed Felix's poor start on this day on a twisted ankle.

May 26: Hernandez saw improvement because, "Before, I'd been falling off the mound" and "I didn't open my front side on breaking balls."

May 31: "I was uncomfortable after I got hit in the arm," Felix told one reporter after another mediocre outing in which a one-hopper deflected off his biceps. The plunking, he said to another, "had no effect at all."

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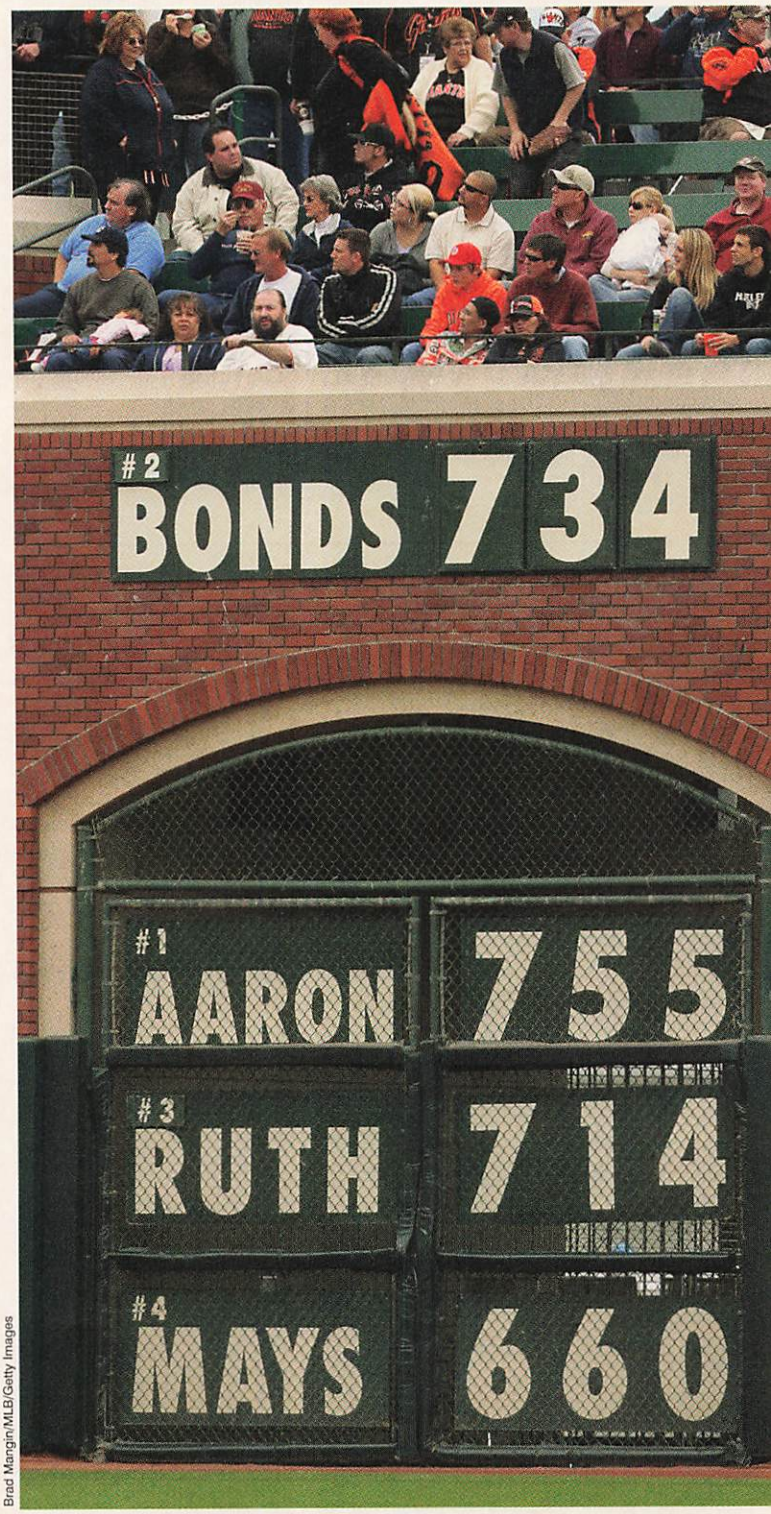
12 Things to Watch in 2007

by Mike Berardino



Brad Mangin/MLB/Getty Images

1 A VERY BARRY NEW YEAR

Barry Bonds wouldn't take a hint.

Despite widespread yawns at his latest free agent tour, the controversial slugger decided to return for one more season with the ambivalent Giants. All it will cost them is $16 million, although they should make that back in Cha-Cha Bowl sales alone at AT&T Park.

That means Bonds, who turns 43 in late July, gets to make the run at Hank Aaron's career home run record, bad wheels willing. Bonds needs 22 more homers to pass Hammerin' Hank, who, by the way, has said repeatedly he has no plans to attend the historic event.

Bonds finished fast to reach 26 homers last year. He appeared in 130 games, or about 20 more than the Giants had planned at the beginning of the year.

Look for new manager Bruce Bochy to spell Bonds even more than predecessor Felipe Alou did. And look for Bonds, who is nothing if not persistent, to pass Aaron sometime in early September.

His Barryness also should be able to move into third place all-time in runs. He needs only 23 more to vault past Pete Rose, Babe Ruth and Aaron, leaving Bonds behind only Rickey Henderson and Ty Cobb in that category.

With only eight more RBIs, Bonds would pass Cobb for sixth all-time. With 66 more RBIs, he would elbow his way past Lou Gehrig for No. 4 on the list.

2 WHAT'S A GYRO BALL?

Major league hitters are bound to find out this year now that Daisuke Matsuzaka has made the jump from Japan to the Red Sox.

All it cost Red Sox owner John Henry was $103 million over the next six years, including the record posting fee of $51.11 million.

Matsuzaka, the former Seibu Lions ace, should take some of the pressure off young rotation-mates Josh Beckett and Jonathan Papelbon. (Unless, of course, the Red Sox decide at the last minute to keep Papelbon as their closer).

Helping Matsuzaka in his transition should be veteran Curt Schilling and fellow Japanese import Hideki Okajima, a lefty reliever who should make the rejiggered Red Sox bullpen.

Their pitching coach, however, won't be the estimable Dave Wallace, who was dismissed at season's end and landed with the Astros. Instead, it's former big league pitcher John Farrell, a first-time pitching coach in the majors.

As for the gyroball, it's basically a disappearing slider with circular rotation that may or may not exist. Matsuzaka's lofty reputation had better be legitimate, or else the Red Sox will be ruing this decision for years to come.

3 THE HIT PARADE

Barry Bonds isn't the only hitter who could make history in 2007. Astros second baseman Craig Biggio needs only 70 hits to become the 27th member of the 3,000 Club and further cement his place in Cooperstown.

Biggio, 41, saw his average drop to .246 last year, lowest since his debut year of 1988. But he still banged out 135 hits and, barring injury, should have no trouble getting to the magic number.

The Astros signed him to a one-year, $5.15 million deal so he could make history in the only big league uniform he's ever worn.

After Biggio, it could be a long wait before baseball's next 3,000-hit man emerges. Bonds is only 159 hits shy, but he hasn't piled up that many hits in a single season in nine years.

Next up is the ageless — OK, he's listed at 48 — Julio Franco (2,566) and Steve Finley (2,531), who turns 42 during spring training. Omar Vizquel (2,472) isn't going to get there either. That leaves Ken Griffey Jr. (2,412) and Gary Sheffield (2,390) next on the active list, although two more viable candidates are Ivan Rodriguez and Derek Jeter.

Pudge opens the year ninth on the active list with 2,354 hits. Jeter has 2,150 hits and is two-and-a-half years younger while playing a less-grueling position.

Bill James gives Rodriguez an 18 percent chance to become the first catcher to make the list, while James puts Jeter at 71 percent. Look for Jeter to make it there first, sometime in 2011.

4 TOMMY, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

From most accounts, Tom Glavine wanted to return to Atlanta for his 21st big league season. Or at least his family wanted him to come back home for that last burst toward 300 wins. (He's 10 short.)

Instead, the Braves chose to hold the line on an $80 million payroll and couldn't find a way to squeeze Glavine onto their roster. So the classy lefthander signed back with the Mets for one year at $10.5 million.

There's also a player option for 2008 at $9 million. That option automatically vests if Glavine reaches 160 innings this season, a pretty good bet since he hasn't failed to reach that plateau since his nine-start debut 20 years ago.

Provided that scary circulation problem from last year doesn't resurface, Glavine should become the 23rd member of the 300-win club with relative ease.

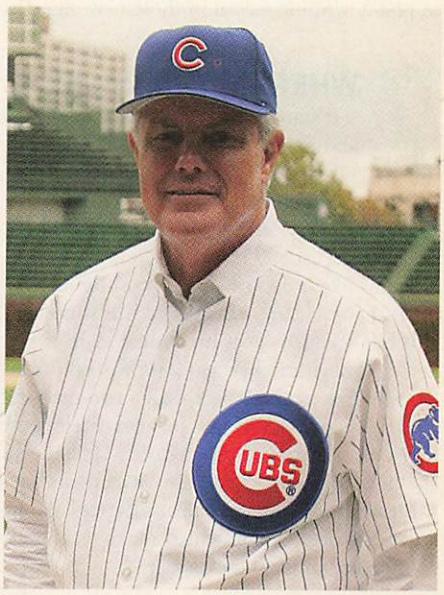
Next up after Glavine? That should be Randy Johnson, who opens the year back in Arizona at 280 wins, but at age 43, he's coming off back surgery.

Mike Mussina is next on the active list at 239 wins, but he'll have to hustle to get there. For one thing, he's 38, although he keeps himself in great shape. A bigger issue is his 13-win average over the last three seasons, due in part to nagging injuries.

5 LOU'S BACK

Admittedly, Lou Piniella isn't the most patient manager who ever filled out a lineup card.

That should be just fine considering his latest assignment is reversing a three-year decline by the big-spending Cubs. Like Piniella, Cubs general manager Jim Hendry is eager to win as soon as possible, although unlike Piniella, that's in part due to rumblings about his job status.



Hendry worked so hard over the winter that he wound up in an Orlando-area hospital during the winter meetings for an unscheduled angioplasty.

Both men should benefit from the Chicago arrival of Alfonso Soriano, who could play either left or right depending on what the Cubs decide to do with Jacque Jones. Paying Soriano $136 million over the next eight years was a bold move, but it's going to take bold moves to put the Cubs back in the World Series for the first time since 1945.

As for winning a World Series, that hasn't happened on the North Side in nearly a full century (1908). The Cubs are hoping to slip in under the 100-year mark and join their city brethren, the White Sox, in bringing Chicago baseball titles in the same decade.

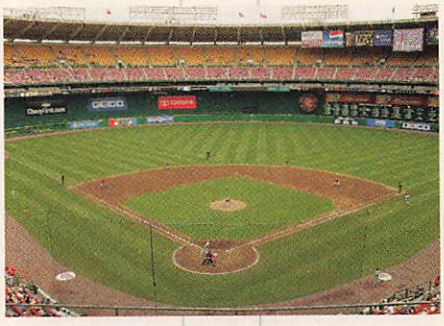
For that to happen, Aramis Ramirez will have to justify the Cubs' faith in bringing him back at $75 million over five years, and Ted Lilly and Jason Marquis will have to pitch to their free agent contracts as well.

Piniella will also have to display the same sort of overnight effect Jim Leyland had on the Tigers last year.

Just to be on the safe side, they'll probably want to keep tabs on Steve Bartman's whereabouts as well.

Biggio: Steve Moore; Glavine: Jim Mcisaac/Getty Images; Piniella: Jonathan Daniel/Getty Images

6 GOODBYE RFK

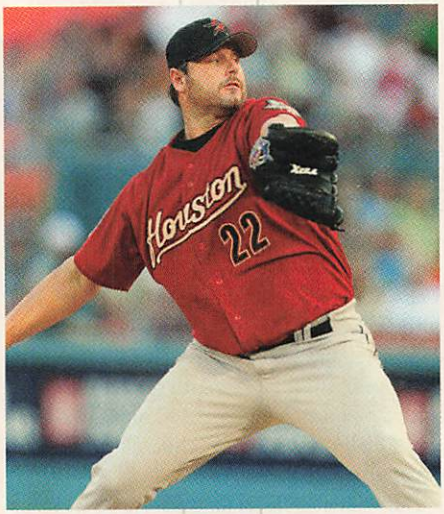


Not many tears will be shed over this facility shutdown, not with the Nationals having only moved there from Montreal in 2005, and the place has been utterly charmless since the Redskins left years ago.

Even the original baseball incarnation of RFK Stadium was highly forgettable, with the expansion Senators playing there from 1962-71 before bolting for Texas. In 12 overall baseball seasons, RFK has seen only one winning tenant, that being the '69 Senators of manager Ted Williams. They went 86–76 and finished fourth in the first year of divisional play.

The good news for baseball fans in our nation's capital is that the Nats' new $611 million home on the Anacostia River is expected to be ready by Opening Day 2008. How long it will take them to post a winning season in those new digs is anybody's guess.

7 WHERE'S THE ROCKET?



It's not exactly Grumpy Old Men III. That would be the thing between Joe Paterno and Bobby Bowden atop college football's coaching heap.

But this sunset duel between Roger Clemens and Greg Maddux is pretty fascinating stuff nonetheless.

Clemens, of course, is the Winningest Pitcher Alive with 348 career victories. Maddux is second on that list at 333.

Seems like a decent-enough cushion until you consider the fact Clemens is nearly four years older than Maddux, who signed this winter with the Padres.

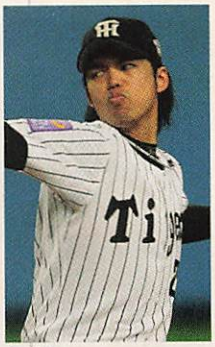
While Clemens does his annual Hamlet speech and wonders whether to return to the Astros — or perhaps another go-round with the Yankees or Red Sox — Maddux is setting up shop at another fine pitcher's park with a two-time reigning division champion behind him.

No wonder Maddux says he's never felt better and has no plans to quit anytime soon. It's probably only a matter of time before Maddux, who has failed to win at least 15 games only once in the last 19 years, rockets past Clemens and steals the WPA distinction.

Meanwhile, Clemens had also better keep an eye on Randy Johnson, who has moved within 60 strikeouts of his total, which ranks second all-time. No one is catching Nolan Ryan, who has 1,110 more whiffs than Clemens.

8 HOW ABOUT THE OTHER GUYS?

Akinori Iwamura



Kei Igawa

Facing far less pressure in their moves from Japan are Yankees lefty Kei Igawa and Devil Rays infielder Akinori Iwamura.

Neither player broke the bank, although Igawa's $26 million posting fee was fairly eye-popping. He won't be expected to do more than fill a spot near the back of the Yankees rotation, behind the likes of Chien-Ming Wang, Mike Mussina and Andy Pettitte.

Iwamura, who is versatile enough to play several infield spots, should be used to playing in depressing domes like Tropicana Field. Japan has several of those.

Getting used to losing, however, could be a tougher deal for him.

The last three World Series champs, by the way, have had at least one player with Japanese ties. The 2006 Cardinals had reserve outfielder So Taguchi, the 2005 White Sox boasted second baseman Tadahito Iguchi and the 2004 Red Sox claimed reserve outfielder Dave Roberts, who was born in Japan.

9 WHO WILL BE THIS YEAR'S DAN UGGLA?

Josh Hamilton

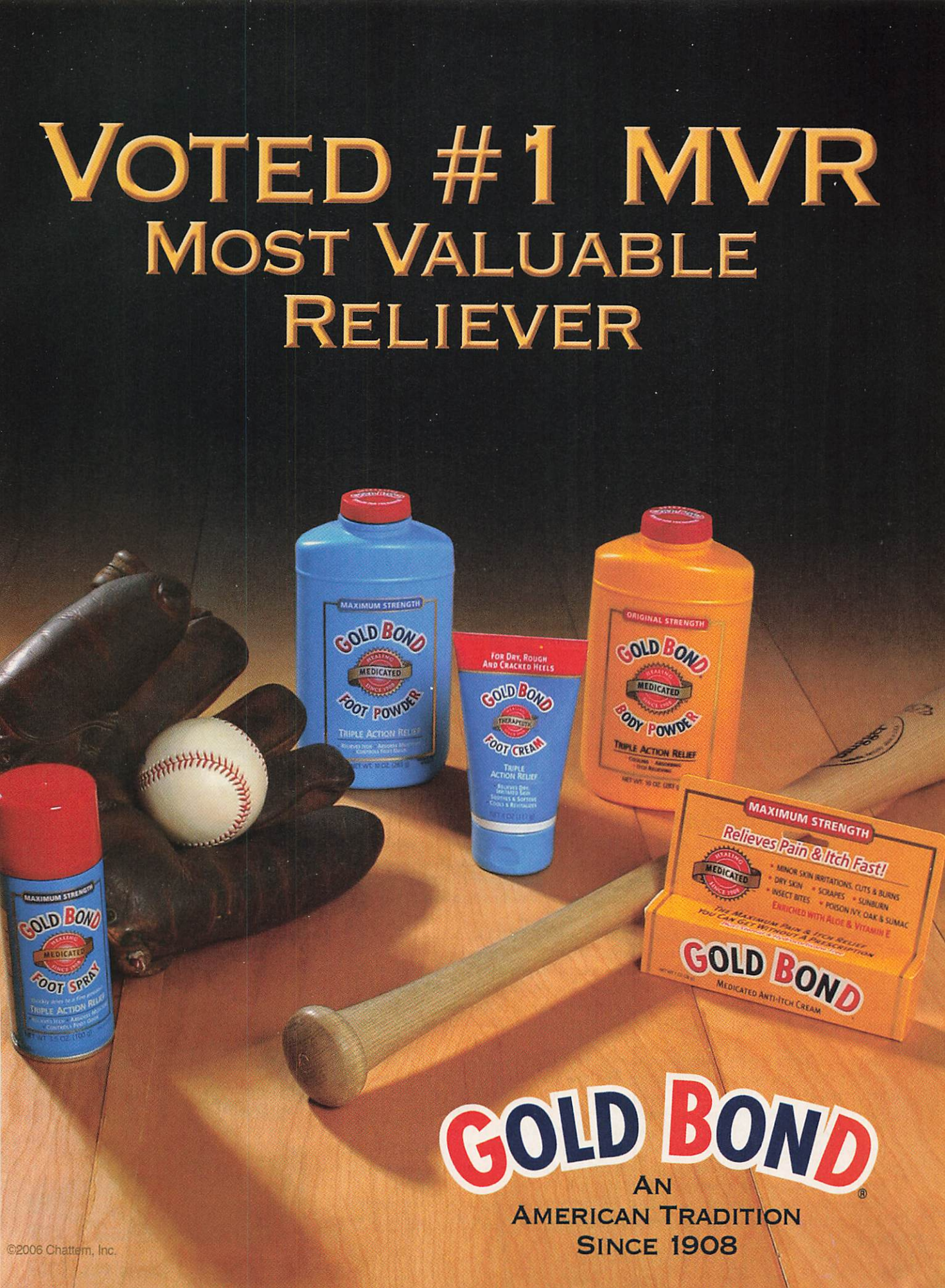
Plenty of top players have made it to the majors via the Rule 5 draft, including Roberto Clemente and Johan Santana. But until Dan Uggla joined the Marlins in 2006, no Rule 5 pick had made it to the All-Star Game in the first season following his selection.

Who has the best chance to repeat that feat from this year's class? Pickings are fairly sparse after the new labor agreement tweaked the rules to give teams an extra year of evaluation time at the start of a player's career. But if you had to put money down on somebody, you might go with Royals righthander Joakim Soria. Originally signed by legendary Dodgers scout Mike Brito, he was released after Tommy John surgery, and the Royals grabbed him out of the Padres system.

Two days after the Royals took Soria with the second overall pick of the Rule 5 draft at the Winter Meetings, he threw a 104-pitch perfect game for Mexico City of the Mexican Winter League. The Royals are likely to toss him into their rotation behind free agent signee Gil Meche.

Taken right behind Soria was troubled former No. 1 overall pick Josh Hamilton, for whom the Reds traded after the draft. He'll get a chance to stick on the roster but as an outfield reserve, not an everyday, Rookie-of-the-Year candidate.

RFK: Jamie Squire/Getty Images;Clemens: John Capella/Sports Imagery/Getty Images
Iwamura: Stephen Dunn/Getty Images; Igawa: Koichi Kamoshida/Getty Images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10 PAYDAYS ON PARADE

If you thought this winter was wild in terms of sheer dollars spent on free agent talent, wait until you get a load of the Class of 2007-08.

Just the center fielders alone figure to spur a frenzied bidding war, even with Vernon Wells having dropped out to re-sign with the Blue Jays for $126 million over seven years.

How about Andruw Jones, Torii Hunter, Mike Cameron, Mark Kotsay and Aaron Rowand for starters? And Ichiro Suzuki, yet another free agent, is going to be used in center this year with the Mariners after six years of stellar service in right.

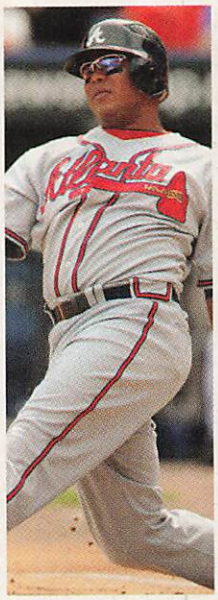
Pitchers who could go free include Carlos Zambrano, Jason Jennings, John Smoltz, Mark Buehrle, Bartolo Colon, Curt Schilling, Kenny Rogers and Tom Glavine.

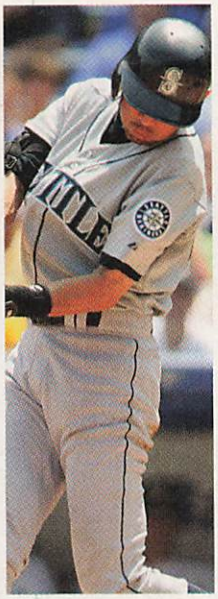
Don't look for Andruw to settle for $75 million over five years as he did last time around, when his father negotiated his deal for him. If he lets Scott Boras do his job next winter, the Braves or (most likely) somebody else will wind up paying at least twice that amount for the perennial Gold Glove-winning slugger.

And who wouldn't love the idea of Ichiro in their outfield? The former MVP hasn't enjoyed enough wins in Seattle the past few years, so he could be more open than ever to a move.

Maybe even across the country, where George Steinbrenner has never forgotten how his baseball people didn't push hard enough for Ichiro when he came over in the winter of 2000-01. Imagine outfield bookends of Ichiro and Hideki Matsui?

That's one way to counter the Red Sox and their Matsuzaka gambit.





11 NO LONGER COMEDY CENTRAL

Long gone are the days when the Twins made a mockery of their competition in the American League Central.

Even though Minnesota has won baseball's feistiest division four of the past five years, it has yet to return to the World Series in a drought that has stretched to 15 years.

However, division rivals such as the White Sox (2005) and Tigers (2006) have captured the past two AL pennants, with the Sox, of course, winning it all.

Will this year be the Twins' turn? Or maybe it's the talented young Indians who will put it all together behind a rebuilt bullpen and ride Travis Hafner, Grady Sizemore and the rest to their first World Series appearance in a full decade.

For all the hype and buzz surrounding the AL East, it's been the Central that has provided the best ballclubs in recent years.

2006 AMERICAN LEAGUE

1.	New York	97–65	.599
2.	Minnesota	96–66	.593
3.	Detroit	95–67	.586
4.	Oakland	93–69	.574
5.	Chicago	90–72	.556

Last season three of the five American League teams winning 90 games or more came from the Central Division. Over the last two seasons half of the AL teams winning 90 games have come from the Central.

12 CAN THE CARDINALS REPEAT?

The Yankees won three straight from 1998-2000; the Blue Jays went back-to-back in 1992-93; and before that it hadn't happened since the Yankees of 1977-78.

So what are the chances of a Cardinals' repeat this year? Probably not very good, considering their 83-win regular season last year marked the fewest victories by any champion in a non-strike year.

Nor does it help that there's so much uncertainty around the St. Louis pitching staff, where Jeff Suppan bolted to the Brewers for $42 million over four years.

Just getting out of the National League Central could prove difficult.

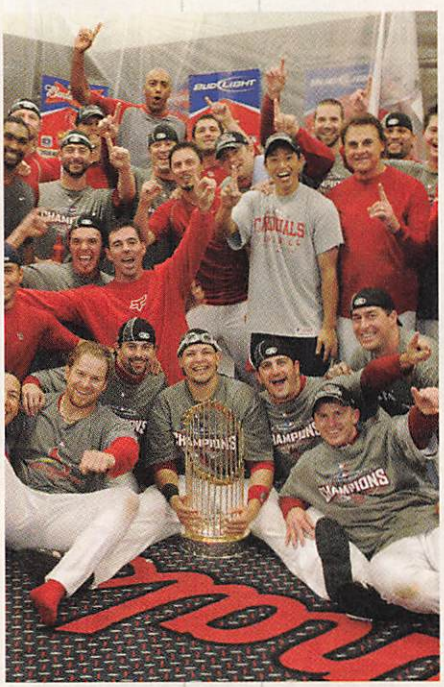
The Cubs beefed up their offense and rotation. The Astros added Carlos Lee and Jason Jennings. The Brewers have a fine young infield and seem ready to break out. And you know Reds general manager Wayne Krivsky will be as active as anyone out there in trying to improve his product.

Then again, perhaps the Cardinals are precisely a good pick to repeat considering how little buzz will follow them through spring training. This despite the fact that Tony La Russa's club is working on a stretch of three straight division crowns, four in the past five years and has made it to the postseason in six of the past seven years.

The only miss came in 2003, when they fell three games short of the Cubs.

Baseball's most stable organization did sign another righthander, Kip Wells, to a one-year, $4 million deal, and he could well become pitching coach Dave Duncan's latest reclamation project. Reliever Russ Springer was sprung from Houston as well.

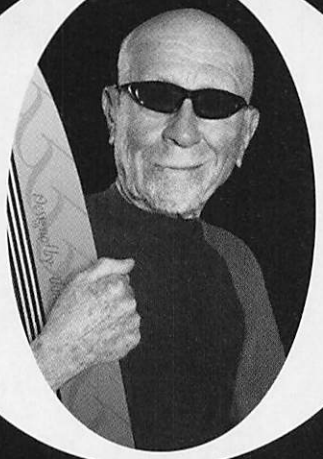
Bringing back Jim Edmonds for $19 million over two years was a move general manager Walt Jocketty had to make, but if Edmonds' post-concussion syndrome returns, the lineup could be left short again.



Jones and Ichiro: Rich Pilling/MLB/Getty Images; Cardinals: Scott Rovak/MLB/Getty Images

Three children. Ten grandchildren. Twelve great-grandchildren. And over 4000 hours on water skis. Frank Shearer has loved every hour on skis almost as much as he loves his grandchildren. That's why he's still at it, almost 80 years after he first set foot on the water in 1926. Of course, skiing wasn't his only love during the past century. He also loved being a doctor. When his practice began

100



in 1932, he was paid $5 for every baby he delivered. He started saving for retirement during his first year of practice, and he's been happily retired for decades. Genworth Financial's retirement income solutions can provide you with options to help meet the challenge of funding a vibrant, active future by giving you retirement income you can't outlive. No matter how long that may be.

To learn more about Frank's life, visit genworth.com/100

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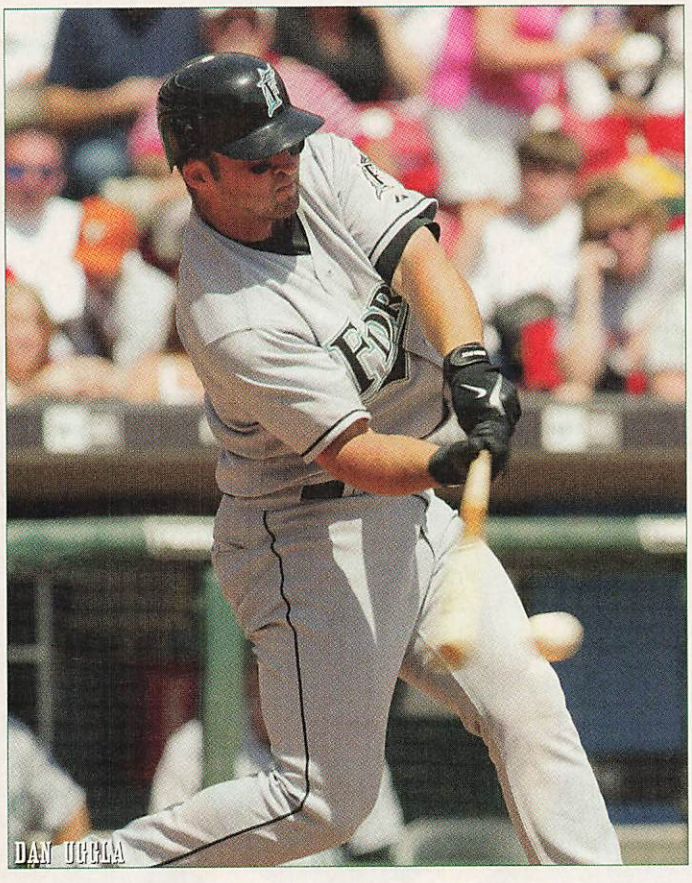
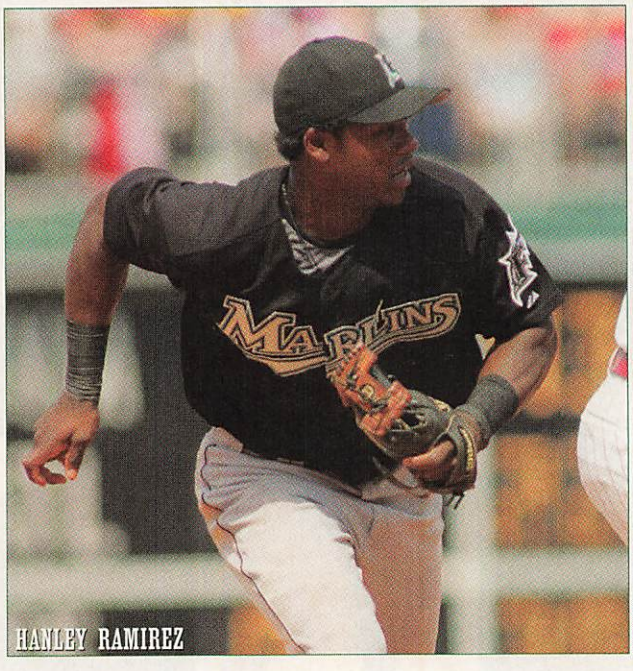


DAN UGGLA

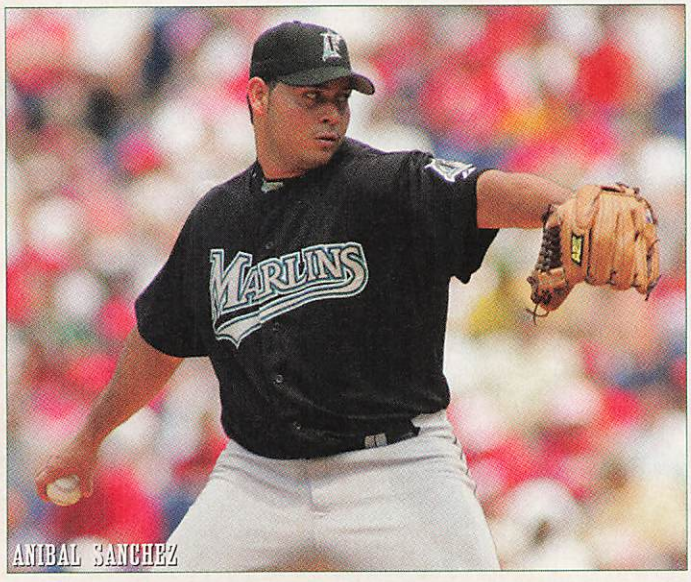


HANLEY RAMIREZ

Smart Money

by Mike Berardino

"They took existing All-Stars and traded them for big-time, top-quality prospects. That's not usually done – for kids."



ANIBAL SANCHEZ

They were the talk of baseball for much of last summer, their collection of impressive young rookies carving out far more success, both team-wise and individually, than anyone had any reasonable right to expect.

Despite a $15 million payroll on Opening Day, $20 million lower than the next closest competitor and lowest by any team in this millennium, they shook off an 11–31 start and roared back into the National League's muddled playoff picture.

By the time they were done, the upstart Marlins didn't quite elbow their way into an once-unthinkable spot in the postseason, but they had produced the league's Manager of the Year (Joe Girardi), its Rookie of the Year (Hanley Ramirez) and the majors' first no-hitter in nearly 28 months (Anibal Sanchez).

They also had unearthed a second baseman (Dan Uggla) who broke Joe Gordon's 68-year-old mark for most homers by a rookie at the position. What's more, Uggla, deemed extraneous by the Diamondbacks, is the first Rule 5 selection to make the All-Star team the very next season.

Oh, yeah, the Mini Marlins also produced the first pitching staff in history with as many as four rookie 10-game winners. For that, pitching coach Rick Kranitz was named *Baseball America*'s Major League Coach of the Year.

Best of all, from a business perspective, the Marlins' 78 wins cost them only $252,564 apiece. This, according to a season-ending payroll figure of $19.7 million, including $3.25 million in deferred payments to Pudge Rodriguez, Al Leiter and Carlos Delgado.

Uggla: John Grieshop/MLB.Getty Images;

By comparison, the Boston Red Sox, darlings of the financial media and subjects of myriad how-to books on successful sports management, produced only 86 wins and missed the playoffs as well on a $120 million Opening Day payroll. That left Team Theo with a per-win cost of just under $1.4 million, or nearly six times what the Marlins spent under general manager Larry Beinfest.

Simply amazing, right?

"The Marlins, in my mind and that of a lot of people, have really conducted their business very, very well on the player personnel side," says Astros team president Tal Smith, who has been around the game for nearly a half-century. "They've been very successful in their signing and development and made wise decisions."

Adds Mike Arbuckle, Phillies assistant GM for scouting and player development: "I think it's a formula that obviously can work. Clearly you can go out and get young players. Now you have to be right in your decisions from a scouting standpoint. I think those guys with the Marlins did a very good job of being right and getting the right people in trades."

So where were the *Forbes* and *Kiplinger's* magazine cover stories on the Marlins' brain-trust? Where was the *Smart Money* magazine profile of owner Jeffrey Loria, team president David Samson and everyone else associated with this upside-down season?

Where was the *Wall Street Journal* writer to follow Beinfest around and make him into a conquering hero for 300-plus pages?

Most of all, where were the copycat clubs out there seeking to emulate the Marlins' remarkable bang for their buck?

In a free agent market gone insane, where even mediocre pitchers such as Ted Lilly and Gil Meche were getting four- and five-year contracts for $10 million or more per year, why didn't other lower-revenue clubs excuse themselves from the madness and go the Marlins' route?

Why haven't teams such as the Pirates and Royals and Devil Rays taken a look at the frightening landscape and opted to go as young and cheap as possible? Not over time? Not in a year or two but right … freaking … now?

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, what to make of this strange reluctance to hop on board the frugal train?

Is it cowardice? A lack of belief in the ability of lightning to strike twice?

And would things be somehow different if the Marlins hadn't petered out in the season's final 10 days and fallen 10 games short of the wild card cutoff?

Here's a look at some of the major reasons why the Marlins' grand experiment wasn't copied this winter and might not be copied anytime soon.

MUST HAVE CHIPS

The biggest advantage the Marlins had when they made their decision to go extremely young after the 2005 season, baseball executives say, was a large talent base from which to trade.

There's no way they could have acquired premium prospects such as Ricky Nolasco, Mike Jacobs, Renyel Pinto, Ramirez and Sanchez without dangling Josh Beckett, Carlos Delgado, Paul Lo Duca, Juan Pierre, Luis Castillo and Mike Lowell. That group included four All-Stars, one of the game's top leadoff men (Pierre) and a former World Series MVP (Beckett).

Of those players, only Lowell's contract — which had two years and $18 million remaining — was considered burdensome. That prompted the Marlins to link him to Beckett rather than accept an offer from the Rangers of Hank Blalock and John Danks for Beckett alone.

That wasn't a $15 million team the Marlins broke up to begin with. Rather, it was a $65 million collection of proven talent that was coming off a third-place, 83-win season widely viewed as a gross underachievement.

"It sounds good to drop down in payroll, but this is not a common tactic," says Pirates general manager Dave Littlefield, a Marlins official from 1999-2001. "This is no knock because they have done a nice job with the players they acquired themselves, but one issue I do think people overlook is that there was a lot of talent there to begin with."

Washington Nationals president Stan Kasten, one of the prime architects of the Atlanta Braves' unprecedented run of success that began in the early '90s, notes the quality of the Marlins' trading chips as well.

"First of all the Marlins had a unique situation," Kasten says. "They took existing All-Stars and traded them for big-time, top-quality prospects. That's not usually done — for kids. That's tough to do. I don't know anyone in much of a position to do that."

Indeed, most struggling franchises that might be tempted to imitate the Marlins' approach lack such established and marketable pieces.

The Pirates, for instance, entered the winter with only three players signed beyond 2006 — shortstop Jack Wilson, All-Star outfielder Jason Bay and reliever Salomon Torres — for a combined $43.2 million.

The Royals had seven players signed for 2007 for a combined $31 million, but those included Mike Sweeney ($11 million), Reggie Sanders ($5 million), Mark Grudzielanek ($4 million) and Scott Elarton ($4 million).

None of those names are likely to spur a huge bidding war among well-heeled contenders willing to part with their best prospects. In fact, Sweeney's nagging injuries have dropped the slugging first baseman awfully close to unmovable status despite several All-Star appearances.

The Nationals have taken steps toward the Marlins' example with their trades of veterans such as Livan Hernandez (Diamondbacks) and Jose Vidro (Mariners). They also solicited winter offers for closer Chad Cordero, but no team appeared willing to meet their asking price of two young major league-ready starters.

One franchise that seems to have adopted the Marlins' model, at least in part, is the Devil Rays. Since opening 2006 with a $35 million payroll, second-lowest in the majors, they have traded away veterans Julio Lugo, Aubrey Huff, Mark Hendrickson and Toby Hall.

> "It was the right time to do it in the National League. The National League is like the NHL. Everybody's got a chance."

In exchange, the Rays received a batch of prospects, including catcher Dioner Navarro, shortstop Ben Zobrist, infielder Joel Guzman and righthander Mitch Talbot, as well as the sort of financial flexibility that is rare in today's game. The Rays, under new owner Stuart Sternberg, entered the offseason with only four players signed for 2007 at a combined $7.6 million. Those included talented young outfielders Carl Crawford and Rocco Baldelli, subject of many winter trade rumors but none that satisfied the Rays' goals of getting younger and better at the same time.

Does the Marlins' example give the Rays hope? "It does in the respect of having that many young players on the field at the same time and still playing meaningful baseball games in September," Devil Rays GM Andrew Friedman says. "It certainly gives hope that a lot of those players can develop quickly and at basically the same time."

Just don't expect the Rays to move Crawford and Baldelli any time soon for minimum-salaried kids. After eight years of largely negative public perception under former managing partner Vince Naimoli, the Rays are working hard to rebuild their fan base and are wary of doing anything to stem that momentum.

What about more established clubs that might see themselves nearing the end of a competitive window of opportunity? The Astros, for instance, might have entered this offseason seeing the likely end to their Roger Clemens/Andy Pettitte years, noting the end of the Jeff Bagwell/Craig Biggio era as well and opted to Marlinize their roster.

Instead, owner Drayton McLane authorized the signing of slugging left fielder Carlos Lee to a six-year, $100 million contract, and aggressive GM Tim Purpura continued the overhaul by dealing center fielder Willy Taveras and a pair of pitching prospects to the Rockies in a package for young starter Jason Jennings.

"It depends upon your depth," says the Astros' Smith. "Every club is constituted differently. From our standpoint we feel our depth is in kid pitching. That's something we can consider. We can consider trading pitching prospects for established guys.

"Doing it the other way around, trading established guys for young pitchers, a lot of it depends on your contractual situation and what the drawing power or what the value is of the established players."

There's also the widespread notion of no-trade clauses that makes even the most reasonable contracts nearly impossible to move.

"I agree (what the Marlins did) is a strategy that a lot of clubs should consider to employ, but you've got to have the right players to do that," Smith says. "In our situation, our key players — (Roy) Oswalt and (Lance) Berkman — are players we're not interested in moving.

"We have them under long-term contracts. We had to give them no-trade deals, which we were happy to do. It just depends. If you've got an established player making big money and you've got a logical replacement there, then obviously you can consider moving him. We're not in that situation. We're sort of the other way around."

FANS? WHAT FANS?

Another hidden advantage the Marlins had in their situation was an embarrassingly small fan base unlikely to be swayed much either way by the club's spending habits.

Consider: the Marlins won a World Series in 2003 and saw their home attendance spike by 36 percent, but their major league attendance rank only improved by a whopping two spots: from 28th to 26th.

The next winter Loria went out and signed Delgado to a four-year, $52 million deal that was supposed to put his club back on top. South Florida shrugged.

Home attendance at Dolphin Stadium improved just 3.5 percent or an average of 701 warm bodies per night. The Marlins' attendance rank dropped back down to 28th.

Last year? Amid hundreds of season-ticket cancellations by fans angry with the sell-off, Marlins attendance predictably fell again, this time by a franchise-worst 37 percent. That put the Marlins dead last in attendance for the first time in club history. However, it was still just a two-spot drop in the attendance rankings.

Marlins team president David Samson set an example of frugality that other clubs aren't in a position to follow.

Try doing that in a place like Baltimore or Pittsburgh, where the attendance average is in the mid-20,000s, and the impact on ownership's wallet is much greater. "It's all well and good in the offseason, when you don't need fans to show up at the ballpark," says Jim Duquette, Orioles VP of baseball operations. "But once it sets in and your fan base is really not paying attention to your product, that's where a lot of owners and organizations decide to change course.

"It takes a total organizational effort from ownership on down. There are a lot of growing pains, boy. When you're talking about guaranteeing empty seats day in and day out, it's very easy to second-guess yourself."

Adds the Phillies' Arbuckle: "I think it's a little bit of a tough sell sometimes, obviously, in a lot of markets. It takes some intestinal fortitude to do it that way. Even though the Marlins have shown a club can be pretty successful going very young if those young players have good ability … I think it's so difficult in most markets to convince people it will work. I think it's a difficult thing to sell. That's probably why you don't see it."

In some respects the Marlins had the freedom to run a baseball laboratory of sorts, thanks to attendance that has been stuck in the sport's bottom five since Loria's arrival before the 2002 season.

"They were really in a no-lose situation," says Blue Jays GM J.P. Ricciardi. "It reminds me of when I was in Oakland and we reached a point there where we weren't drawing a lot of people. It wasn't that our fans weren't important, but people knew the payroll wasn't going to be big and that wasn't going to change."

Indeed, the A's and Twins have done a masterful job of remaining competitive despite bottom-five payrolls and modest attendance rankings. From 2001-05, the A's ranked between 17th and 19th in the majors in home attendance despite fielding consistent playoff contenders. The Twins, since returning to the playoffs for the first time in 11 years in 2002, have remained between 19th and 23rd in home attendance.

Interestingly, the A's did see their home attendance dip to 26th last year despite their first division title in three seasons.

Perhaps there isn't as much correlation between contention and attendance as teams traditionally believe.

"If I was in that position, yes, I would strongly consider it," Smith says of the Marlins. "But you get different viewpoints from ownership and public relations and marketing and so on. The Marlins' market probably was not going to be affected by whatever deals they made, whereas if you've got a fairly well-established club in a pretty good market that's drawing well and you start trading off veterans, some owners get concerned about how that's going to reflect PR-wise and market wise."

FLUKE PATROL

Non-believers in the Marlins Experiment also like to point to a number of other factors that made their 2006 success extremely hard to replicate. For starters, they were operating under the former labor agreement, which still carried a disincentive for lower-revenue teams to increase their annual take beyond a certain threshold.

So the Marlins could pocket more than $30 million in revenue sharing and feel good about doing it. The lower the local revenue, the fatter the welfare check.

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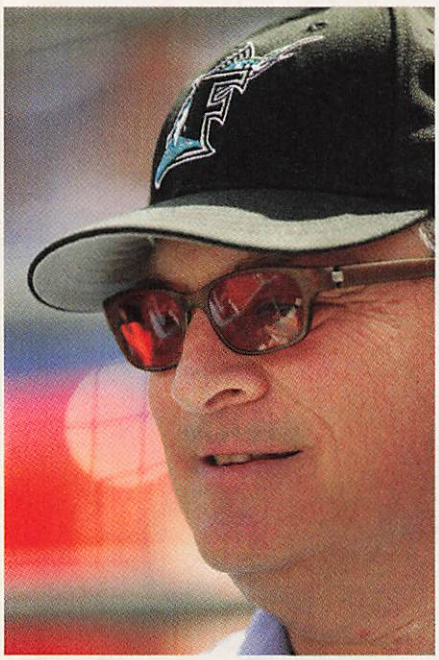
Under the new agreement, teams at the bottom of the revenue stream won't have as much incentive to stay there because they will be able to keep more of the dollars they generate. That was one of the biggest concerns of large-revenue clubs upset with their less-fortunate brethren who didn't seem to be trying hard enough at times. All teams will now be taxed 31 cents on every dollar of revenue they produce as opposed to the old system that hit large-revenue clubs with a 40-percent tax and small-revenue clubs at 48 percent.

"Under the old agreement, a team like the Marlins would have to give up 48 cents of every new dollar that they earn," says Mike Weiner, general counsel for the Major League Baseball Players Association. "Which, when you think about capital gains rate and things like that, would discourage investment. There's a limited amount of risk you're prepared to take if — even if you win — you only get to keep 52 percent of your gains."

And now? "When I project out that if I increase my payroll by $10 million I might be able to increase my revenues by $15 million," Weiner says, "now I get to keep a lot higher percentage of that $15 million and I'm more likely to do it. That's the theory behind this. We view players as an investment decision by clubs."



Free from having to please a rabid fan base, Loria has been able to experiment.

Other teams could attempt to do what the Marlins did in 2006, but, the union believes, will be less likely to do so.

There was also the reality of amphetamine testing — with penalties — for the first time in big league history. While there was no way to quantify this hypothesis, the general consensus around the game was that younger players were more comfortable playing without artificial aids than veterans who had come to rely on such nightly boosts. That edge, however great or small it may have been for teams like the Marlins, should fade over time as players in their prime adjust and those from the older generation cycle into retirement.

And let's not forget a mediocre crop of NL clubs that came along a year ago. Yes, the Mets won 97 games, but no other NL team could win any more than 88, which hasn't even been good enough to make the postseason in many other years. Only six of 16 NL teams managed to finish the year with winning records. "It was the right time to do it in the National League," Ricciardi said last fall. "The National League is like the NHL. Everybody's got a chance."

More than anything, however, the lack of a suitable Marlins imitator could be attributed simply to the lack of historical precedent. After all, the first time the Marlins tried to blow up their roster, they followed up their 1998 World Series crown with a 108-loss abomination.

"I think people will look at what the Marlins did a little more closely, but one thing you have to understand is they're almost forced to do things this way," Ricciardi says. "They're driven by payroll, but I don't think most teams would do this on their own."

Only desperate times could bring on such seemingly desperate measures. "I think part of (the reluctance) is what happened with the Marlins was very, very, very unique to the game," says ESPN baseball analyst Steve Phillips, the former Mets GM. "It wasn't predictable. I think most people thought they might lose 100 games. They had so many good young players, and nobody ever has that."

Perhaps no team ever will again.

Elliot Schechter/Getty Images

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PENNY WISE

With all the money thrown around this winter, it's difficult to know exactly where to set the bar in order to evaluate a good bargain. Is Gary Matthews worth $10 million a year? That signing is evidence enough to explain why J.D. Drew walked away from the final three years of a contract with the Dodgers that would have guaranteed the oft-injured outfielder another $33

Sean Casey

Jim Edmonds

Nomar Garciaparra

Jason Schmidt

Alfonso Soriano

Barry Zito

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Moises Alou, OF	N.Y. Mets	1	$8,500,000

The Mets replaced Cliff Floyd, who made about $6.6 million last season, in left field with Alou. Like Floyd, Alou is past his prime, an injury risk, somewhat of a defensive liability, but he can really rake at the plate. Worth the one-year exposure, especially in New York.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Rich Aurilia, IF	San Francisco	2	$8,000,000

Supposedly promised a full-time gig to return to his roots, Aurilia will be among the cheapest No. 3 hitters in the majors.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Barry Bonds, LF	San Francisco	1	$16,000,000

It appears that only legalities can keep Bonds from the hallowed 756. That alone will be worth far more than $16 mil to the Giants. The Giants hope the big fly comes in the ninth game of a nine-game homestand.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Sean Casey, 1B	Detroit	1	$4,000,000

Casey was one of the few bright spots in Detroit's lineup during the World Series. He's never driven in 100 or hit more than 25 homers, typically not what you want from first base. But over 10 seasons, he's .302 with an .824 OPS. Not bad for just $4 mil. Plus lefties don't phase him.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Jim Edmonds, CF	St. Louis	2	$19,000,000

After his leadership willed the Cardinals to a World Series title, the Redbirds had to re-sign their former Gold Glover. Since $3 million of the $19 million is deferred over time, until 2019 or so, we're giving the Cardinals a pass on this one. Edmonds, who had considered retirement, appears to be reenergized. If that's the case, he could even be a bargain.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Eric Gagne, RP	Texas	1	$6,000,000

If he's healthy, he's worth about $12 million. If he's not healthy, he's worth about $12. Not even the doctors know for sure just yet.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Nomar Garciaparra, 1B	Dodgers	2	$18,500,000

Nomar has a bit of an injury stigma, but we love him when he's on the field, and he's well worth this price. If the Dodgers win the division, there will be MVP talk.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Marcus Giles, 2B	San Diego	1	$3,200,000

He's happily united with his brother back home in San Diego and has something to prove to the Braves, who let him walk. We see a big year for the Giles duo.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Tom Glavine, SP	N.Y. Mets	1	$10,500,000

Winning 10 games puts him at 300. That alone is worth the cash at Shea, not to mention the whole veteran-in-the-pennant-race thing.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Jose Guillen, RF	Seattle	1	$5,500,000

Hitting at Safeco can't be as bad as RFK. Guillen helps the offense, but offense isn't the problem in Seattle. Maybe the Mariners should put that strong arm to use on the mound?

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Kei Igawa, SP	N.Y. Yankees	5	$20,000,000

You can never be sure about pitchers transitioning from Japan, but we believe Igawa will be more like Hideo Nomo than Hideki Irabu.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Greg Maddux, SP	San Diego	1	$10,000,000

Even if Maddux doesn't win 10, he'll be worth the money just spending time with Jake Peavy and Chris Young. The Pads should benefit from this acquisition for several years.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Mark Mulder, SP	St. Louis	2	$13,000,000

Prior to 2003, the Cardinals took a chance on Chris Carpenter, who would not be available until 2004. That worked out. The Redbirds hope lightning will strike twice. We'll find out in August.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Jason Schmidt, SP	L.A. Dodgers	3	$47,000,000

At 33, Schmidt could be the steal of the winter. This signing alone put the Dodgers on top of the division with a shot at the NL pennant.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Scott Schoeneweis, RP	N.Y. Mets	3	$10,800,000

Indicative of the Year of the Setup Man, this southpaw has allowed only one home run to lefties over three seasons, covering 287 ABs. During that time lefthanders have slugged .265. The bonus is that last season right-handed hitters batted only .257 off of him.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Alfonso Soriano, CF	Chicago Cubs	8	$136,000,000

By the time he is 40, Soriano will have earned upwards of $160 million. He has a chance to own Chicago if the next eight years yield a pennant. Given that he was once traded for a $252 million A-Rod, $136 million looks like a real steal.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Rondell White, OF	Minnesota	1	$2,750,000

After an otherwise miserable season, White was healthy and strong in September. He batted .351 with a .960 OPS for the month, helping the Twins clinch the AL Central. He'll get off to a better start in '07.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Kerry Wood, P	Chicago Cubs	1	$1,750,000

This contract is almost a freebie for the Cubs, so anything Wood gives them would be a huge bonus.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Barry Zito, SP	San Francisco	7	$126,000,000

If there is such a thing as a Penny Wise seven-year deal for a pitcher, this is it. Zito has never missed a start, and considering this market, our suspicion is that it will be Zito, not the Giants, anxious to renegotiate in 2011.

Photos by Steve Moore

dollar foolish

million over those three seasons. It's worth noting that small-revenue teams have less incentive to hold spending down under the new Collective Bargaining Agreement. More teams like the Royals and Brewers were eager to enter the spending spree.

Player	Team	Contract Yrs.	Total Money
Danys Baez, RP	**Baltimore**	**3**	**$19,000,000**
Over the past three seasons, he has thrown 200 innings with a 1.31 WHIP, which isn't too comforting. Lefties hit .295 last season, so he can only be counted on to get out right-handed hitters.			
Miguel Batista, SP	**Seattle**	**3**	**$25,000,000**
He has 36 saves and five complete games over the last three seasons. In 2006, lefties reached base at a .405 clip. The money would have been better saved for Ichiro this winter.			
David Dellucci, OF	**Cleveland**	**3**	**$11,500,000**
Since when is a part-timer worth committing $11 million to? Over three seasons less than eight percent of his at-bats are against lefties. And for good reason. Lefties stymie him to a .185 average.			
Mark DeRosa, IF/OF	**Chicago Cubs**	**3**	**$13,000,000**
Do the Cubs really believe that at age 31, DeRosa is suddenly a hitter? Will he be that much more productive than Ronny Cedeno?			
J.D. Drew, RF	**Boston**	**5**	**$70,000,000**
You know the market is out of control when a player with Drew's injury history opts out of $33 million over the next three years.			
Alex Gonzalez, SS	**Cincinnati**	**3**	**$14,000,000**
A couple of years ago the market for top shortstops was set at about $8 million. So less than five is not bad, but in 2009 the Reds will be wishing they had Felipe Lopez back.			
Shea Hillenbrand, 1B	**L.A. Angels**	**1**	**$6,500,000**
The Angels needed a big bat in their lineup to support Vladimir Guerrero. They signed Hillenbrand. Problem not solved.			
Carlos Lee, LF	**Houston**	**6**	**$100,000,000**
Lee forms a nice duo with Lance Berkman in the middle of the lineup. The problem is that this move straps the Astros from building a pitching staff to replace Clemens and Pettitte.			
Ted Lilly, SP	**Chicago Cubs**	**4**	**$40,000,000**
If Gil Meche is worth $55 mil for five years, then who's to argue with this deal? But Lilly will wilt at Wrigley after eight starts.			
Julio Lugo, SS	**Boston**	**4**	**$36,000,000**
After the 2005 Renteria Experiment failed in Boston, the Red Sox will give Lugo a shot. Renteria is better.			
Jason Marquis, SP	**Chicago Cubs**	**3**	**$21,000,000**
The most baffling signing on the list, no doubt. Last season, opponents' OBP was .364, slugging was .509, and his ERA was 6.02. And now he's going into Wrigley?			
Daisuke Matsuzaka, SP	**Boston**	**6**	**$52,000,000**
By all accounts signing the youngster from Japan for less than $9 million a year is a blockbuster deal for the Sox. But we can't ignore the $51 million paid to the Seibu Lions just to say hi to Matsuzaka.			
Gary Matthews, CF	**L.A. Angels**	**5**	**$50,000,000**
One good season gets you five years? Wow. His detractors would say that a .249 career hitter over 2,167 ABs doesn't suddenly become a .313 hitter. We're with them.			
Gil Meche, SP	**Kansas City**	**5**	**$55,000,000**
Meche is going from a pitcher's park with a good defense to Kansas City. We don't see his .340 OBP or his 4.48 ERA improving.			
Bengie Molina, C	**San Francisco**	**3**	**$16,000,000**
Could this be a better deal than the three years the Giants gave Mike Matheny two years ago?			
Andy Pettitte, SP	**N.Y. Yankees**	**1**	**$16,000,000**
If Pettitte can convince his buddy Clemens to sign with the Yankees, then he'll be worth $20 million. If not, $9 mil makes more sense.			
Juan Pierre, CF	**L.A. Dodgers**	**5**	**$44,000,000**
Expect Pierre to manufacture runs with his speed. But by the end of the contract the Dodgers will be singing the blues.			
Joel Pineiro, P	**Boston**	**1**	**$4,000,000**
The Red Sox enter spring training with Pineiro as their closer. He blew one of two save opps last season after starting 25 games. He has a 5.49 ERA at Fenway over the last three seasons.			
Aramis Ramirez, 3B	**Chicago Cubs**	**5**	**$73,000,000**
In one of the first signings of the offseason, the Cubs paid under market value for their slugger. But we expect Ramirez' career to follow more of a Bob Horner path, than, say, a Gary Sheffield path.			
Mike Stanton, RP	**Cincinnati**	**2**	**$5,500,000**
Since June 2005, Stanton has been released, traded for Rhys Taylor and Yader Peralta, then traded again for Shairon Martis.			
Jeff Suppan, SP	**Milwaukee**	**4**	**$42,000,000**
He thrived in St. Louis because of run support and a terrific defense. Neither of those factors moved in the right direction.			
Frank Thomas, DH	**Toronto**	**2**	**$18,000,000**
The chip on his shoulder in 2006 won't be there this season. In 2008, this contract will be a Big Pain for the Jays.			
Randy Wolf, SP	**L.A. Dodgers**	**1**	**$7,500,000**
By July the Dodgers will be crying Wolf — and no one will listen.			

Mark DeRosa

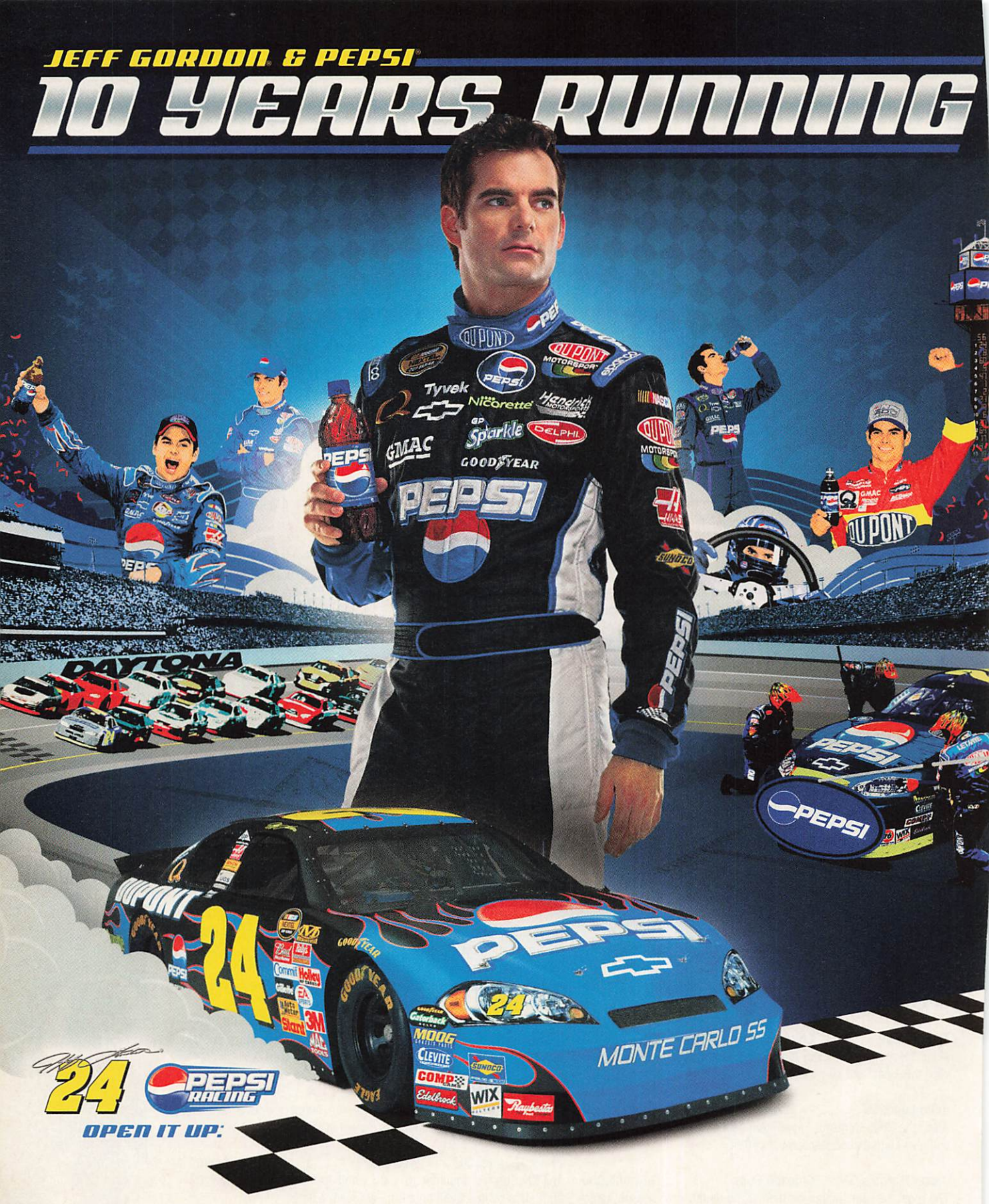
J.D. Drew

Carlos Lee

Ted Lilly

Andy Pettitte

Juan Pierre



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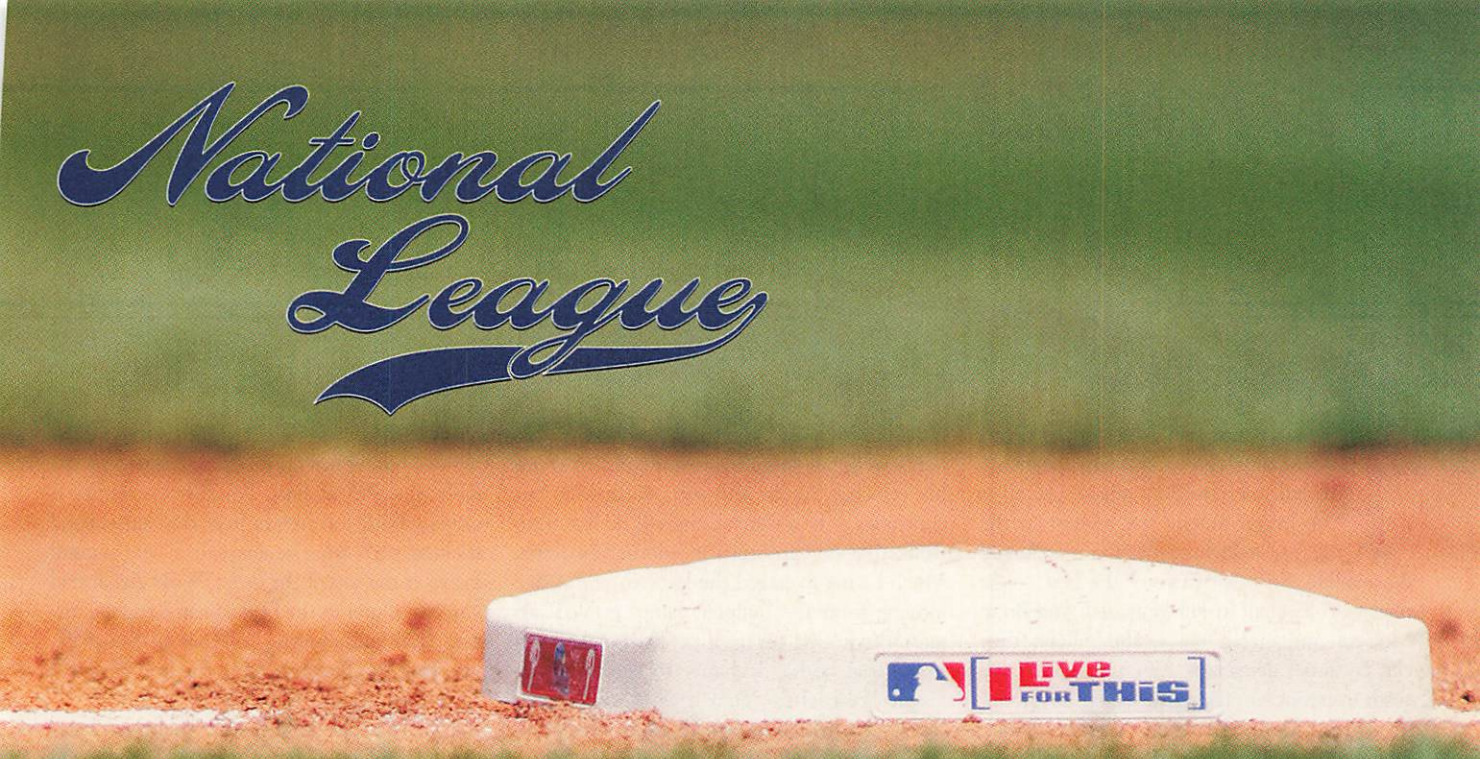
National League



PREDICTIONS 2007

East
1. New York
2. Philadelphia*
3. Atlanta
4. Florida
5. Washington

Central
1. St. Louis
2. Milwaukee
3. Houston
4. Chicago
5. Cincinnati
6. Pittsburgh

West
1. Los Angeles
2. San Francisco
3. Arizona
4. San Diego
5. Colorado

*Wild Card

NLCS
Los Angeles Dodgers over New York Mets

World Series
New York Yankees over Los Angeles Dodgers

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MVP
1. Albert Pujols, St. Louis
2. David Wright, New York
3. Ryan Howard, Philadelphia

Cy Young
1. Roy Oswalt, Houston
2. Barry Zito, San Francisco
3. Jason Schmidt, Los Angeles

ROY
Andy LaRoche, Los Angeles

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

Atlanta Braves

2007 Prediction: 3rd

2006 Finish: 79–83

NL East

These are not the Braves of old. They are a club whose corporate ownership is still in transition, whose payroll is no longer among the highest in the league and whose rotation is no longer dependable. Still, with two of the best young players in baseball in Jeff Francoeur and Brian McCann and a fresh look in the bullpen, they can be rather dangerous. "We may not be the team everyone is picking to win it anymore," says veteran third baseman Chipper Jones, whose team last year missed the postseason for the first time since 1990. "That's OK. But understand this is not some type of rebuilding project. We feel we can be there come September."

Rotation Except for John Smoltz and the surprising Chuck James, the rotation in 2006 was perhaps the most disappointing the Braves have had since they began the now-broken 14-straight division title run in 1991. The main snag was Tim Hudson, who just can't seem to find the arm that made him so difficult to hit when he was in Oakland. He's back and working hard with pitching coach Roger McDowell, but there is a major concern about his velocity. Smoltz will turn 40 in May but continues to be a warrior; there is no reason to think that he can't turn in another 34 starts, which he has averaged the last two years since moving from the bullpen. James proved last season (winning seven of his final eight decisions) that he has a chance to be one of the league's best lefties. That leaves the two final spots. One will likely go to Mike Hampton, who hasn't pitched since early 2005 and underwent Tommy John elbow surgery. Reports say his arm is strong. The fifth starter should be the young Kyle Davies, who at times has looked great and at others looks like he should be in the minors. There's not a lot of depth here as most of the talented starting arms are more than a year away from the majors.

JOHN SMOLTZ
pitcher

Bullpen Since Smoltz moved back to the starting rotation, the Braves have gone into the season wondering who is going to be the closer, and whose arm is going to get the team to the stopper. No more. Bob Wickman was brought in last summer and closed 17 of his 18 opportunities, and then the Braves went out this winter and traded for Mike Gonzalez and Rafael Soriano. Gonzalez will get a chance to close if Wickman falters. Also, young relievers Tyler Yates and Macay McBride can handle the duties in the middle while the Braves wait for 2005 first-round draft pick Joey Devine to blossom. Depending on how many pitchers the team keeps, expect a real battle for the final two or three jobs here.

Middle Infield The Braves didn't miss Rafael Furcal last year. Edgar Renteria came in and did more than enough both at the plate and in the field. The big change here is that Marcus Giles is gone, with the Braves not wanting to pay him more than $5 million in arbitration. Giles didn't give the Braves the numbers they needed at the leadoff spot, and now they will turn to the young Martin Prado at second and in the leadoff role. Prado is a career .299 hitter in the minors, but he has only 12 home runs and 191 RBIs in 1,915 at bats. Another possibility is moving Kelly Johnson in from the outfield and sticking with what scouts call a very natural hitter at the top of the order. Willy Aybar had a strong winter in the Dominican Republic hitting .300 and showing patience at the plate, just what the Braves need in the leadoff spot.

Corners The good news is that third baseman Chipper Jones finished last season healthy. But how much does Chipper have left? This team continues to live and die with his bat, and despite playing in only 110 games last season, he hit .324 with 26 homers and 86 RBIs. He has gone through a very regimented offseason workout program. The Braves traded Adam LaRoche in late January for Gonzalez, leaving a big hole at first base. Scott Thorman, who hit .298 with 15 home runs in 309 at-bats at Richmond last year, will have an opportunity to win the job, though free agent acquisition Craig Wilson figures to get some at-bats, as well.

Outfield This may be the last season for center fielder Andruw Jones in a Braves uniform, but he continues to prove he is one of the best players in the game. In his free agent year, there is no telling what numbers he may put up after collecting 92 homers and 257 RBIs over the last two seasons. In right is Francoeur, and he certainly didn't disappoint anyone last year in his first full season, though he is extremely streaky at the plate. But at only 23, he is the team's best clutch hitter. The weakness in this outfield is left fielder Ryan Langerhans, who is strong defensively but drops off considerably at the plate. Wilson, when he's not playing first base, is an option in left, as well.

STATLINE

Lowest AVG, 200+ Homers Since 2001

1. **Andruw Jones** ..... **.263**
2. Richie Sexson ..... .269
3. Jim Thome ..... .279
4. Jason Giambi ..... .280
5. Alfonso Soriano ..... .281

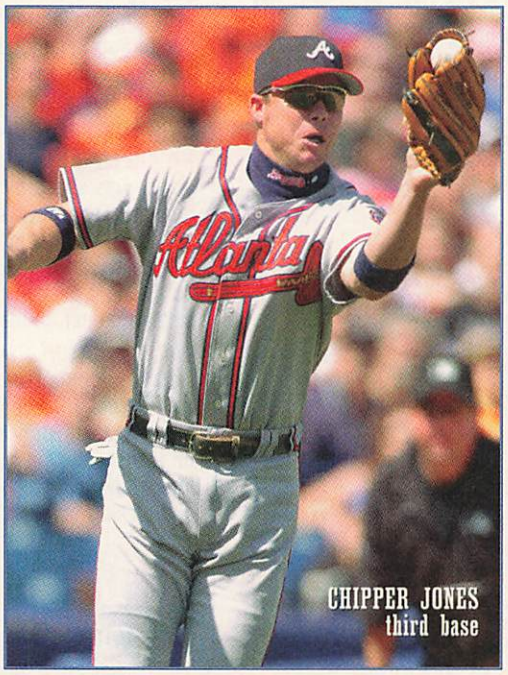
(active players)

Catching There isn't a better young catcher in the National League than McCann, who won the Silver Slugger Award last year. The coaching staff also feels very comfortable with the way he handles the rotation and believes that his offensive numbers are only going to improve. Cuban-born Brayan Pena will back up McCann. Not much pop when he is at the plate, but he's steady behind it.

Bench Matt Diaz gives the club a good bat and someone who can come in and play all the outfield spots. He hit .327 with 32 RBIs in 297 at bats last year, his first full season in the majors. The Braves also signed veteran Chris Woodward, who gives the team stability at any spot in the infield and also can play in the outfield. Johnson and Wilson will both play significant roles, either as starters or key reserves.

Management GM John Schuerholz and manager Bobby Cox make up one of the top GM-manager combinations in the game and have been doing it together for 17 years. But one has to wonder how much longer they will both be with the club. Schuerholz continued to lose some of his best front office talent last year (assistant Dayton Moore went on to become the GM in Kansas City), and Cox is about to turn 66. Still, they both burn the midnight oil, and no one in the game is better than Cox at keeping his team competitive for 162 games.

Final Analysis The Mets have obviously taken the upper hand in the division and continued to reload in the offseason, while some believe the Marlins have the youth to make a run at New York. The Braves certainly don't resemble the team that dominated from 1991-2005, but they are faced with a retooling rather than total rebuilding. At least they should be able to finally win games late with a rebuilt bullpen. What may make a difference is if the ownership question (the sale to Liberty Media) can be finalized by midseason, perhaps giving the team more money to spend for a stretch run.



FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Andruw Jones
High-Dividend Hurler: John Smoltz
Buy Recommendation: Chuck James
Sell Recommendation: Ryan Langerhans
Medical (In)Securities: Chipper Jones
IPO: OF Gregor Blanco
Futures Market: C Jarrod Saltalamacchia
Insider Tip: The line between Bob Wickman and Rafael Soriano as closer is a thin one.

STATISTICIAN

- **6** Number of games the Braves won in June, out of 27. You could say their unprecedented streak of 14 consecutive division titles ended then.
- **1** Where manager Bobby Cox put Andruw Jones when he was asked by glove manufacturer Rawlings to rank the top 50 defensive players of the past 50 years.
- **4** The numbers of major league games, strikeouts, walks and innings for reliever Phil Stockman, who got a quick look last season.
- **34** The number of walks in 908 major league at-bats for young star Jeff Francoeur.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Kelly Johnson was a shortstop in high school and started his minor league career there before being moved to the outfield in 2004. He got called up to the majors in late May 2005 and went 2-for-34 with one RBI in his first 12 games. But Bobby Cox stuck with him, and in the next 24 games he hit .344 with 12 extra-base hits (six homers) and 23 RBIs, including 19 walks and a .455 on-base percentage. He then missed last season because of elbow surgery. He is now healthy, and the team is working with him this winter at second base (where he's being tutored by former major league second baseman and Braves coach Glenn Hubbard), thinking he may be able to also work into the leadoff role. If he's healthy and hitting well, whether he plays left or second, he could find himself at the top of the lineup.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

2B Martin Prado
Career .296 minor league hitter will replace Marcus Giles.

SS Edgar Renteria
Coming back to the NL helped him greatly.

3B Chipper Jones
Expect him to get more rest this season to keep him healthy.

CF Andruw Jones
In his free agent year, should put up 50 HRs and 120 RBIs again.

C Brian McCann
If he can stay healthy expect his defense to improve.

RF Jeff Francoeur
No one loves swinging the bat more; the club's next superstar.

LF Ryan Langerhans
He may find himself in the minors if he doesn't improve.

1B Scott Thorman
Gets his chance with Adam LaRoche now in Pittsburgh.

BENCH

C Brayan Pena
Giving up switch-hitting; will swing only from the left side.

OF Matt Diaz
If Langerhans can't do the job in left, expect Diaz to get a shot.

UT Kelly Johnson
Will be a valuable commodity working at OF and 2B.

UT Chris Woodward
Gives the bench a solid veteran and a quality backup SS.

UT Craig Wilson
Signed after the Adam LaRoche deal to help at first and left.

INF Willy Aybar
Will see time at second and give Chipper some rest at third.

ROTATION

RHP John Smoltz
He's the only holdover from the 1991 miracle team.

RHP Tim Hudson
Many are wondering where his fastball went last season.

LHP Mike Hampton
No one knows how he will come off Tommy John surgery.

LHP Chuck James
Ranked fourth among NL rookies with a 3.78 ERA.

RHP Kyle Davies
Inconsistent but some feel he can be another Tom Glavine.

BULLPEN

RHP Bob Wickman
Finally gives the Braves a known-commodity for a closer.

LHP Mike Gonzalez
24-of-24 in saves before elbow tendinitis sidelined him Aug. 24.

RHP Rafael Soriano
The type of setup guy the Braves have been looking for.

LHP Macay McBride
Will be relied on heavily to come in and get out lefty bats.

RHP Tyler Yates
The 240-pounder almost averaged one K per inning last year.

RHP Chad Paronto
Workhorse last year, appearing in 65 games with a 3.18 ERA.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Bobby Cox **COACHES:** Chino Cadahia, Glenn Hubbard, Roger McDowell, Eddie Perez, Terry Pendleton, Brian Snitker

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
	Manny Acosta	R-R	5/1/81	Richmond (AAA)	1-6	3.63	38	17	44.2	44
				Mississippi (AA)	0-0	2.35	13	4	15.1	13
73	Jose Ascanio	R-R	5/2/85	Mississippi (AA)	4-2	4.26	24	0	38.0	37
				Myrtle Beach (A)	1-1	4.94	8	0	31.0	23
48	Blaine Boyer	R-R	7/11/81	**ATLANTA**	**0-0**	**40.50**	**2**	**0**	**0.2**	**0**
40	Lance Cormier	R-R	8/19/80	**ATLANTA**	**4-5**	**4.89**	**29**	**0**	**73.2**	**43**
				Richmond (AAA)	4-3	3.95	9	0	54.2	27
				Rome (A)	0-0	0.00	1	0	1.0	2
26	Kyle Davies	R-R	9/9/83	**ATLANTA**	**3-7**	**8.38**	**14**	**0**	**63.1**	**51**
				Richmond (AAA)	2-0	0.60	2	0	15.0	8
				Mississippi (AA)	1-1	4.50	4	0	14.0	9
34	Joey Devine	R-R	9/19/83	**ATLANTA**	**0-0**	**9.95**	**10**	**0**	**6.1**	**10**
				Richmond (AAA)	0-0	—	1	0	0.0	0
				Mississippi (AA)	2-0	0.82	6	0	11.0	20
				Myrtle Beach (A)	1-3	5.89	13	0	18.1	28
51	Mike Gonzalez	R-L	5/23/78	**PITTSBURGH**	**3-4**	**2.17**	**54**	**24**	**54.0**	**64**
32	Mike Hampton	R-L	9/9/72	INJURED	Missed Season					
15	Tim Hudson	R-R	7/14/75	**ATLANTA**	**13-12**	**4.86**	**35**	**0**	**218.1**	**141**
43	Chuck James	L-L	11/9/81	**ATLANTA**	**11-4**	**3.78**	**25**	**0**	**119.0**	**91**
				Richmond (AAA)	1-0	2.67	7	0	33.2	25
				Rome (A)	0-0	0.00	1	0	1.0	1
46	Jonathan Johnson	R-R	7/16/74	Richmond (AAA)	2-3	3.48	23	0	51.2	46
36	Anthony Lerew	L-R	10/28/82	**ATLANTA**	**0-0**	**22.50**	**1**	**0**	**2.0**	**1**
				Richmond (AAA)	3-5	7.48	16	0	71.0	69
				Mississippi (AA)	4-2	2.03	9	0	48.2	37
49	Macay McBride	L-L	10/24/82	**ATLANTA**	**4-1**	**3.65**	**71**	**1**	**56.2**	**46**
				Richmond (AAA)	0-0	0.00	3	0	3.0	3
				Mississippi (AA)	0-0	9.64	4	0	4.2	6
58	Peter Moylan	R-R	12/2/78	**ATLANTA**	**0-0**	**4.80**	**15**	**0**	**15.0**	**14**
				Richmond (AAA)	1-7	6.35	35	1	56.2	54
54	Chad Paronto	R-R	7/28/75	**ATLANTA**	**2-3**	**3.18**	**65**	**0**	**56.2**	**41**
				Richmond (AAA)	1-1	1.02	12	0	17.2	15
29	John Smoltz	R-R	5/15/67	**ATLANTA**	**16-9**	**3.49**	**35**	**0**	**232.0**	**211**
39	Rafael Soriano	R-R	12/19/79	**SEATTLE**	**1-2**	**2.25**	**53**	**2**	**60.0**	**65**
	Phil Stockman	R-R	1/25/80	**ATLANTA**	**0-0**	**2.25**	**4**	**0**	**4.0**	**4**
				Richmond (AAA)	0-0	0.81	18	2	33.1	41
				Mississippi (AA)	0-0	0.00	3	0	7.1	12
				Rome (A)	0-1	0.00	3	0	3.0	6
45	Tanyon Sturtze	R-R	10/12/70	**NEW YORK AL**	**0-0**	**7.59**	**18**	**0**	**10.2**	**6**
56	Oscar Villarreal	R-R	11/22/81	**ATLANTA**	**9-1**	**3.61**	**58**	**0**	**92.1**	**55**
28	Bob Wickman	R-R	2/6/69	**ATLANTA**	**0-2**	**1.04**	**28**	**18**	**26.0**	**25**
				CLEVELAND	**1-4**	**4.18**	**29**	**15**	**28.0**	**17**
57	Tyler Yates	R-R	8/7/77	**ATLANTA**	**2-5**	**3.96**	**56**	**1**	**50.0**	**46**
				Richmond (AAA)	0-0	2.16	7	0	8.1	10

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
16	Brian McCann	L-R	2/20/84	**ATLANTA**	**.333**	**130**	**442**	**61**	**24**	**93**	**2**
				Rome (A)	.286	2	7	0	0	0	0
8	Brayan Pena	L-R	1/7/82	**ATLANTA**	**.268**	**23**	**41**	**9**	**1**	**5**	**0**
				Richmond (AAA)	.302	87	325	32	1	33	6

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
14	Willy Aybar	S-R	3/9/83	**ATLANTA**	**.313**	**36**	**115**	**17**	**1**	**8**	**0**
				Richmond (AAA)	.300	3	10	2	0	1	0
				LOS ANGELES NL	**.250**	**43**	**128**	**15**	**3**	**22**	**1**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	.315	50	197	30	10	41	1
10	Chipper Jones	S-R	4/24/72	**ATLANTA**	**.324**	**110**	**411**	**87**	**26**	**86**	**6**
				Mississippi (AA)	.167	2	6	1	0	0	0
4	Pete Orr	L-R	6/8/79	**ATLANTA**	**.253**	**102**	**154**	**22**	**1**	**8**	**2**
1	Tony Pena	R-R	3/23/81	**ATLANTA**	**.227**	**40**	**44**	**12**	**1**	**3**	**0**
				Richmond (AAA)	.282	81	298	38	1	23	12
24	Martin Prado	R-R	10/27/83	**ATLANTA**	**.262**	**24**	**42**	**3**	**1**	**9**	**0**
				Richmond (AAA)	.282	60	241	30	2	23	2
				Mississippi (AA)	.278	43	176	17	1	15	1
11	Edgar Renteria	R-R	8/7/75	**ATLANTA**	**.293**	**149**	**598**	**100**	**14**	**70**	**17**
20	Scott Thorman	L-R	1/6/82	**ATLANTA**	**.234**	**55**	**128**	**13**	**5**	**14**	**1**
				Richmond (AAA)	.298	81	309	38	15	48	4
	Craig Wilson	R-R	11/30/76	**PITTSBURGH**	**.267**	**85**	**255**	**38**	**13**	**41**	**1**
				NEW YORK AL	**.212**	**40**	**104**	**15**	**4**	**8**	**0**
5	Chris Woodward	R-R	6/27/76	**NEW YORK NL**	**.216**	**83**	**222**	**25**	**3**	**25**	**1**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
	Gregor Blanco	L-L	12/12/83	Richmond (AAA)	.294	73	269	43	0	19	14
				Mississippi (AA)	.287	66	251	45	0	9	17
27	T.J. Bohn	R-R	1/17/80	**SEATTLE**	**.143**	**18**	**14**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**0**
				Tacoma (AAA)	.283	97	378	53	9	43	15
				AZL Mariners (R)	.250	4	16	4	0	1	3
23	Matt Diaz	R-R	3/3/78	**ATLANTA**	**.327**	**124**	**297**	**37**	**7**	**32**	**5**
7	Jeff Francoeur	R-R	1/8/84	**ATLANTA**	**.260**	**162**	**651**	**83**	**29**	**103**	**1**
2	Kelly Johnson	L-R	2/22/82	INJURED	Missed Season						
25	Andruw Jones	R-R	4/23/77	**ATLANTA**	**.262**	**156**	**565**	**107**	**41**	**129**	**4**
18	Ryan Langerhans	L-L	2/20/80	**ATLANTA**	**.241**	**131**	**315**	**46**	**7**	**28**	**1**

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

BLOWN CY? One has to wonder if the Braves bullpen cost John Smoltz a Cy Young last year. He finished with 16 wins but had six late leads blown. Arizona's Brandon Webb won the Cy Young with 16 wins and a 3.10 ERA. Webb pitched 235 innings and struck out 178 while Smoltz threw 232 innings and struck out 211. You have to think that if the Braves would have closed out four of the six leads they had with Smoltz and he had finished with 20 wins, he would have won his second Cy Young.

YOUNG ARMS The Braves made a total of 54 picks in the amateur draft last season, putting a huge emphasis on pitching. They took 37 pitchers and only 17 position players. By the way, of their picks, 26 came from junior college, 21 from high school and six from a four-year college.

VOICES OF THE BRAVES The Braves have scrambled around their announcing teams. Joe Simpson will team with newcomer Jon Sciambi as the broadcast team on FSN South and SportSouth while Chip Caray will head the TBS broadcast team. Veterans Skip Caray and Pete Van Wieren will handle most of the games on radio.

NO BIG MAC Speaking of Simpson, the former major league player was asked by the Atlanta *Journal-Constitution* if he thought Mark McGwire should be in the Hall of Fame. Said Simpson: "If I could vote for him, I would not. Because he had an opportunity to do the right thing before Congress and do the right thing for kids who might follow his lead, and instead he sat on the bench and was a wimp."

WISH GRANTED This past offseason, Tim Hudson and his wife Kim took a bunch of kids into a Toys 'R' Us for a shopping spree. The event involved some 75 children from the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Said Hudson: "To see the smiles on their faces and their parents — it's good to see the kids interacting and having fun and seeing them run around here and picking up stuff."

THE FARM SYSTEM

2006 Top Draft Pick

Cody Johnson, the 24th overall pick in the draft, hails from Lynn Haven (Fla.). He has tremendous power from the left side and doesn't turn 19 until August. He played first base in high school but has been switched to the outfield. Some scouts believe he has a hitch in his swing, which may have led to his struggles in the Gulf Coast Rookie League last summer; he struck out 49 times in 114 at-bats, hitting .184 with one HR and 16 RBIs. At 6'4" and 195, Johnson is still growing, and the Braves will be very patient with him.

Prospects

C Jarrod Saltalamacchia Was considered a top catching prospect but hit just .230 with nine homers at Class AA.

1B Scott Thorman Big and strong, he got his first taste of the majors last year and at times showed some power.

RHP Anthony Lerew It won't be long before he makes it to the major league club; 106 Ks in 119.2 innings last year.

SS Elvis Andrus Will get his first taste of Class AA ball this spring; good glove but needs more development at the plate.

OF Brandon Jones Solid season last year in Class A and AA; still a little ways off from figuring in the outfield picture.

David Stoner

Florida Marlins

2007 Prediction: 4th

2006 Finish: 78–84
NL East

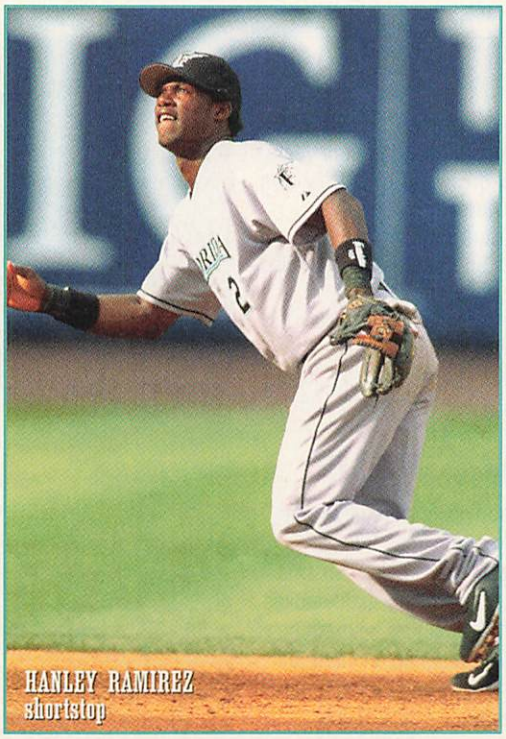
Coming off an upside-down year that saw them win 78 games when most expected them to lose 100-plus, the Marlins will try to build on that surprising step forward in 2007. They will do so with a new manager, Fredi Gonzalez, who promises to be on the same page as management in a way predecessor Joe Girardi never was.

Rotation Dontrelle Willis was supposed to be the lonely anchor of a kiddie rotation. Instead he found himself providing top-notch leadership to a group of surprisingly quick learners. Until the 2006 Marlins, no quartet of rookies had ever won at least 10 games in a season. Not content to stop there, the Marlins also watched Anibal Sanchez throw the majors' first no-hitter in 28 months, Josh Johnson contend for an ERA title before running into September injury problems and Scott Olsen turn things around after a slow start that incurred Girardi's wrath. Toss in No. 5 starter Ricky Nolasco, who must address nagging inconsistencies in his performance, and the Marlins are well-positioned to pitch their way into playoff contention again.

Bullpen In the last three seasons the Marlins have resurrected the careers of closers Armando Benitez, Todd Jones and Joe Borowski. All got to South Florida with their value diminished and their careers at a crossroads only to get pointed back in the direction of riches elsewhere. While the Marlins were considering a possible second go-round with Benitez, the in-house options weren't all that encouraging. Young Taylor Tankersley probably has the moxie to handle the role, but he seems better-suited to setting up. Durable Kevin Gregg was acquired from the Angels to handle right-handed setup duties and help eat up precious innings.

Middle Infield For seven years the Marlins' fan base — such as it is — was spoiled with the nightly glovework of Luis Castillo and Alex Gonzalez. No one could have imagined how well their rookie replacements would fill their shoes. Shortstop Hanley Ramirez overcame midyear shoulder problems to run down teammate and keystone partner Dan Uggla for NL Rookie of the Year honors. Ramirez's all-around skills caused no less an authority than Ken Griffey Jr. to cite him as the one active player he might choose to begin a franchise. Uggla, a Rule 5 pick from the Diamondbacks, slugged his way into the record books as well, breaking Joe Gordon's 68-year-old mark for homers by a rookie second baseman. Uggla's defense was supposed to be horrible, but hard work with Marlins infield guru Perry Hill lifted Uggla past respectable and maybe even all the way to above-average.

Corners So much for Miguel Cabrera falling victim to boredom as he was forced to play alongside a collection of rookies. All the Marlins' franchise third baseman did was make his third straight All-Star team, put on a show at the Home Run Derby and come within five points of the Marlins' first batting title. Cabrera's defense also improved notably in the second half after some early season troubles. While he could wind up at first down the road, Cabrera's decision to lose 15 pounds or so in-season bought him at least another few years at


HANLEY RAMIREZ
shortstop

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

SS Hanley Ramirez
Hit .336 with 8 HRs and 36 RBIs after Sept. 1.

2B Dan Uggla
First Rule 5 pick to make the All-Star team the very next year.

3B Miguel Cabrera
His defense was adequate; still no match for his all-world bat.

1B Mike Jacobs
Played much of the year with a stress fracture in his foot.

LF Josh Willingham
Has bounced all over the diamond in recent years.

C Miguel Olivo
His .342 throwing percentage led all qualifying NL catchers.

RF Jeremy Hermida
This former first-rounder needs to stay healthy.

CF Alex Sanchez
His speed makes him a leading candidate in center.

BENCH

UT Alfredo Amezaga
Played six positions, including 64 starts in center.

OF Cody Ross
Hit 11 HRs with 37 RBIs in 250 ABs with the Marlins.

C Matt Treanor
Some Marlins pitchers prefer throwing to him over Olivo.

OF Joe Borchard
Never got much of a chance to play despite the void in center.

OF Reggie Abercrombie
Clearly not ready after skipping Triple-A.

ROTATION

LHP Dontrelle Willis
Dropped off by 10 wins from his Cy-quality 2005.

RHP Anibal Sanchez
His no-hitter against Arizona was highlight of the season.

LHP Scott Olsen
Overcame a slow start to win 12 games as a rookie.

RHP Josh Johnson
Went 8–4 with a 2.21 ERA in the first half.

RHP Ricky Nolasco
Could wind up in the bullpen if a proven closer isn't acquired.

BULLPEN

LHP Taylor Tankersley
Former first-rounder could open as the closer.

RHP Kevin Gregg
Should get ample opportunity in a middle relief/setup role.

LHP Renyel Pinto
Candidate for the rotation should anyone falter.

RHP Randy Messenger
Big and durable, he's noted mostly for a flat-brim hat.

RHP Henry Owens
Former catcher got a taste of the majors with the Mets last year.

RHP Sergio Mitre
Opened the year in the rotation before injuring shoulder.

RHP Matt Lindstrom
Owner of a big fastball; could be closing by the second half.

the hot corner. First baseman Mike Jacobs gave the team its only semblance of left-handed power while playing with a stress reaction in his foot for much of the year. His defense left much to be desired.

Outfield Josh Willingham isn't the most graceful presence in left field, but what he lacks in range he makes up with hustle and positioning. His bat is another story, more than living up to his nickname: Hammer. In a less-competitive year he might have walked away with NL rookie honors. Jeremy Hermida will get another crack at right field after suffering through an injury-plagued debut. His power stroke never showed up as he dealt with hip and foot problems. Center field remained wide open heading into late January. Alex Sanchez, signed to a minor league deal in the offseason, is as good a bet as any to seize control. Sanchez's plus speed on the bases fits with the organization's philosophy, but his circuitous routes on defense provide nightly adventure.

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Miguel Cabrera
High-Dividend Hurler: Dontrelle Willis
Buy Recommendation: Jeremy Hermida
Sell Recommendation: Josh Willingham
Medical (In)Securities: Josh Johnson
IPO: RHP Yusmeiro Petit
Futures Market: LHP Sean West
Insider Tip: Taylor Tankersley is the real deal as soon-to-be closer.

Catching Three organizations gave up on Miguel Olivo before the Marlins got hold of him. Olivo put up career-bests in all three triple crown categories and did a better-than-advertised job of handling a rookie-laden pitching staff. He also gunned down 34 percent of attempted base stealers. Olivo has vowed to be more selective but also realizes he had a .444 average and slugged .922 when putting the first pitch in play.

Bench Wes Helms has taken his resurgent bat and corner-infield versatility to the division-rival Phillies. That left the Marlins searching for his replacement without much to spend on the slot. With the club still searching for a permanent answer to the center field problems, versatile Alfredo Amezaga is expected to return to his primary role as an infield utility man. Young Robert Andino, a slick-fielding middle infielder, could make the club as well. Matt Treanor is a solid receiver with a modest bat behind the plate. In the outfield the Marlins can boast the surprising pop of Cody Ross along with switch-hitter Joe Borchard and possibly Reggie Abercrombie, although the latter figures to head back to Triple-A for some much-needed seasoning.

Management General manager Larry Beinfest never complains about the payroll constraints he must work under. Instead he does the best he can each year to fill out the roster with as much depth and talent as possible considering the modest funds at his disposal. This year it should be a payroll in the $25 million range. Considering the significant raises Willis and Cabrera stood to receive through arbitration, that didn't leave much for veteran pieces elsewhere. No matter. Under Beinfest, who is locked up through 2010, the Marlins have managed to resurrect the careers of a number of supposedly fading veterans. Should local politicians put the finishing touches on a long-sought stadium deal, Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria has vowed that the payroll will jump right back up. At its height in 2005, that was in the $65 million range.

Final Analysis While last year's 78-win surprise was a great accomplishment, it might be just as remarkable should the Marlins make the 10-win improvement Beinfest has targeted for them to become a bona fide playoff contender. Apparent holes in the bullpen and the bench will make it difficult for Gonzalez to open his managerial career with a winning record. He might have to settle for continuing the growth and development of a still-young roster with an eye toward 2008, which was the target year all along for Marlins' management to return this franchise to contention.

STATLINE

Most extra base hits by a 50-SB Man

1. Ty Cobb	79	(1911)
2. Tris Speaker	75	(1912)
3t. Hanley Ramirez	**74**	**(2006)**
3t. Ty Cobb	74	(1917)
5. Jake Stenzel	72	(1894)

STATISTICIAN

1 Grand slams by the 2006 Marlins. That belonged to Dontrelle Willis, who hit the first slam by a big league pitcher in more than four years.

25 Major league rank of the Marlins' bullpen ERA (4.67). Only two National League teams ranked lower (Brewers and Giants).

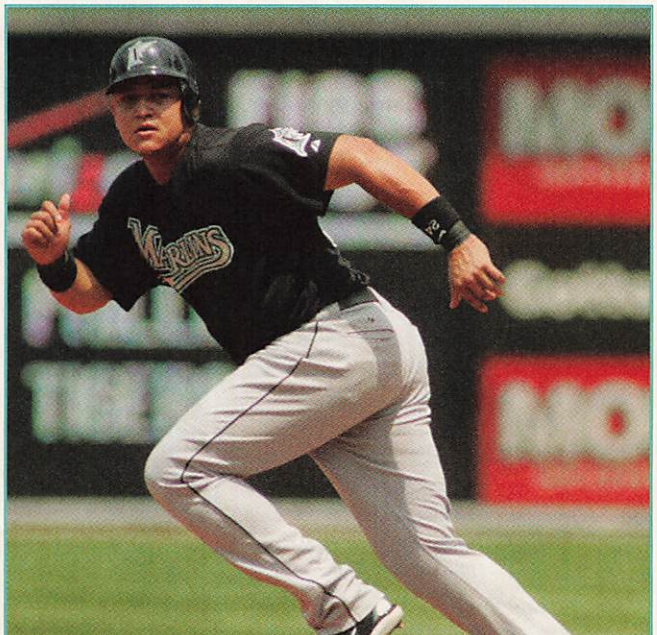
.364 Winning percentage for the Marlins' relievers in going a combined 16–28. That was the lowest in the majors and the 28 losses trailed only the Brewers in the NL.

126 Errors by the Marlins' defense last year, third-most in the NL. Only the Reds and Nationals made more.

112 Home runs by Marlins' rookies in 2006, setting a major league record. The previous mark was set by the 1982 Twins with 106.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Of all the Marlins' rookies, **Jeremy Hermida** was widely expected to be the one with the best chance at winning Rookie of the Year. Instead Hermida suffered through an injury-plagued debut season and became an afterthought in the balloting. This time it was a hip injury that knocked him out a week into the season, followed by an August foot injury that wrecked the last part of his year. The Marlins are counting on Hermida to bounce back and become the offensive threat he was in the minors. If he does, he could offset some expected downturns in the lineup.



MIGUEL CABRERA
third base

Cabrera: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Sinkball: Rich Abel

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

FALLING IN THE FOREST Despite a young, energetic team that was the talk of baseball, the Marlins fell to dead last in major league attendance. They averaged 14,372 fans per home date, 15 percent lower than the next worst home draw, the cross-state Devil Rays.

LAGGING RESULTS For all the pride the Marlins take in their stockpile of pitching prospects, their lack of position prospects has become notable. That led to a .467 combined winning percentage for their six minor league affiliates last year. Only their Gulf Coast League entry managed a winning record, and even that was fairly modest (29–24).

LET IT FLY Catcher Miguel Olivo's lack of patience at the plate became historical last year. His nine walks (five unintentional) were the fewest ever for a player with at least 100 strikeouts. The previous mark was shared by Rolando Roomes (1989 Reds) and John Bateman (1963 Colt .45s). Olivo went nearly the final four months with only one unintentional walk. That came on Aug. 8, courtesy of the Nationals' Tony Armas Jr.

QUICK START With his devastating combination of speed and power, Hanley Ramirez evokes memories of some of the top two-way leadoff threats of the past. While he might not stay in the role much longer, he's already put himself in the record book. His seven leadoff homers in 2006 tied Nomar Garciaparra's major league record for a rookie. Ramirez passed Chili Davis and Kaz Matsui for the NL mark with his sixth leadoff homer.

BACK TO EVEN The '06 Marlins became the first team in the modern era to return to .500 after falling 20 games below the break-even mark. After opening 11–31 they rallied to 68–68 on Sept. 3 before tailing off a bit down the stretch.

THE FARM SYSTEM

2006 Top Draft Pick

Drafted 19th overall out of Missouri State, right-handed pitcher **Brett Sinkbeil** signed quickly for $1.525 million and wasted little time establishing himself as one of the top pitching prospects in a pitching-rich organization. Sinkbeil tries to pattern himself after Roger Clemens in terms of work ethic and preparation. He packed on 35 pounds of muscle in three years of college. His fastball tops out at 96 mph, showing late life. His tight slider is a solid out pitch that Sinkbeil can throw in any count. He should open 2007 as part of an eye-popping rotation of former first rounders at Class A Jupiter.

Prospects

RHP Chris Volstad Taken 16th overall in 2005, this towering control specialist remains on the fast track to the majors.

1B Gaby Sanchez Drew raves in the Arizona Fall League for his advanced hitting approach and strong plate discipline.

LHP Sean West At a burly 6'8", his physical presence and emotional approach complement a 90-93 mph fastball.

RHP Gaby Hernandez Grabbed from the Mets in the Paul Lo Duca trade.

LHP Aaron Thompson His changeup and location draw comparisons to a young Tom Glavine.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Fredi Gonzalez **COACHES:** Carlos Tosca, Rick Kranitz, Jim Presley, Perry Hill, Bo Porter, Steve Foster, Pierre Arsenault

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
51	Travis Bowyer	R-R	8/3/81	INJURED	Missed Season					
59	Jesus Delgado	R-R	4/19/84	Jupiter (A)	2-4	2.58	28	0	38.1	40
58	Harvey Garcia	R-R	3/16/84	Jupiter (A)	0-7	2.92	55	21	64.2	83
50	Jose Garcia	R-R	1/7/85	**FLORIDA**	**0-0**	**4.91**	**5**	**0**	**11.0**	**8**
				Albuquerque (AAA)	0-1	11.25	1	0	4.0	5
				Carolina (AA)	6-7	3.40	14	0	84.2	87
				Jupiter (A)	6-2	1.87	12	0	77.0	69
63	Kevin Gregg	S-R	6/20/78	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**3-4**	**4.14**	**32**	**0**	**78.1**	**71**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	1-0	0.00	3	0	10.0	8
55	Josh Johnson	L-R	1/31/84	**FLORIDA**	**12-7**	**3.10**	**31**	**0**	**157.0**	**133**
19	Logan Kensing	R-R	7/3/82	**FLORIDA**	**1-3**	**4.54**	**37**	**1**	**37.2**	**45**
				Albuquerque (AAA)	1-1	3.00	13	2	18.0	18
	Matt Lindstrom	R-R	2/11/80	Binghamton (AA)	2-4	3.76	35	11	40.2	54
				St. Lucie (A)	1-0	2.50	11	2	18.0	16
60	Carlos Martinez	R-R	5/26/82	**FLORIDA**	**0-1**	**1.74**	**12**	**0**	**10.1**	**11**
23	Randy Messenger	R-R	8/13/81	**FLORIDA**	**2-7**	**5.67**	**59**	**0**	**60.1**	**45**
				Albuquerque (AAA)	0-0	9.00	4	0	3.0	1
				Jupiter (A)	0-0	0.00	1	0	1.0	1
64	Paul Mildren	R-L	5/3/84	Carolina (AA)	10-10	4.14	28	0	167.1	150
52	Sergio Mitre	R-R	2/16/81	**FLORIDA**	**1-5**	**5.71**	**15**	**0**	**41.0**	**31**
				GCL Marlins (R)	0-0	0.00	1	0	1.0	0
47	Ricky Nolasco	R-R	12/13/82	**FLORIDA**	**11-11**	**4.82**	**35**	**0**	**140.0**	**99**
34	Scott Olsen	L-L	1/12/84	**FLORIDA**	**12-10**	**4.04**	**31**	**0**	**180.2**	**166**
	Henry Owens	R-R	4/23/79	**NEW YORK NL**	**0-0**	**9.00**	**3**	**0**	**4.0**	**2**
				Binghamton (AA)	2-2	1.58	37	20	40.0	74
45	Yusmeiro Petit	R-R	11/22/84	**FLORIDA**	**1-1**	**9.57**	**15**	**0**	**26.1**	**20**
				Albuquerque (AAA)	4-6	4.28	17	0	96.2	68
37	Renyel Pinto	L-L	7/8/82	**FLORIDA**	**0-0**	**3.03**	**27**	**1**	**29.2**	**36**
				Albuquerque (AAA)	8-2	3.40	18	0	95.1	96
36	Anibal Sanchez	R-R	2/27/84	**FLORIDA**	**10-3**	**2.83**	**18**	**0**	**114.1**	**72**
				Carolina (AA)	3-6	3.15	15	0	85.2	92
57	Taylor Tankersley	L-L	3/7/83	**FLORIDA**	**2-1**	**2.85**	**49**	**3**	**41.0**	**46**
				Carolina (AA)	4-1	0.95	22	6	28.1	40
65	Scott Tyler	R-R	8/20/82	Carolina (AA)	1-2	3.67	48	3	61.1	52
35	Dontrelle Willis	L-L	1/12/82	**FLORIDA**	**12-12**	**3.87**	**34**	**0**	**223.1**	**160**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
30	Miguel Olivo	R-R	7/15/78	**FLORIDA**	**.263**	**127**	**430**	**52**	**16**	**58**	**2**
20	Matt Treanor	R-R	3/3/76	**FLORIDA**	**.229**	**67**	**127**	**12**	**2**	**14**	**0**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
4	Alfredo Amezaga	S-R	1/16/78	**FLORIDA**	**.260**	**132**	**334**	**42**	**3**	**19**	**20**
11	Robert Andino	R-R	4/25/84	**FLORIDA**	**.167**	**11**	**24**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**1**
				Albuquerque (AAA)	.255	120	498	70	8	46	13
8	Aaron Boone	R-R	3/9/73	**CLEVELAND**	**.251**	**104**	**354**	**50**	**7**	**46**	**5**
24	Miguel Cabrera	R-R	4/18/83	**FLORIDA**	**.339**	**158**	**576**	**112**	**26**	**114**	**9**
17	Mike Jacobs	L-R	10/30/80	**FLORIDA**	**.262**	**136**	**469**	**54**	**20**	**77**	**3**
2	Hanley Ramirez	R-R	12/23/83	**FLORIDA**	**.292**	**158**	**633**	**119**	**17**	**59**	**51**
33	Jason Stokes	R-R	1/23/82	Albuquerque (AAA)	.257	65	237	39	7	34	2
				GCL Marlins (R)	1.000	1	3	1	1	2	0
6	Dan Uggla	R-R	3/11/80	**FLORIDA**	**.282**	**154**	**611**	**105**	**27**	**90**	**6**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
61	Reggie Abercrombie	R-R	7/15/81	**FLORIDA**	**.212**	**111**	**255**	**39**	**5**	**24**	**6**
21	Joe Borchard	S-R	11/25/78	**FLORIDA**	**.230**	**108**	**230**	**30**	**10**	**28**	**6**
				SEATTLE	**.222**	**6**	**9**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**
27	Jeremy Hermida	L-R	1/30/84	**FLORIDA**	**.251**	**99**	**307**	**37**	**5**	**28**	**4**
				Jupiter (A)	.176	6	17	3	0	2	0
1	Eric Reed	L-L	12/2/80	**FLORIDA**	**.098**	**42**	**41**	**6**	**0**	**0**	**3**
				Albuquerque (AAA)	.303	95	390	68	5	39	20
12	Cody Ross	R-L	12/23/80	**FLORIDA**	**.212**	**91**	**250**	**30**	**11**	**37**	**0**
				LOS ANGELES NL	**.500**	**8**	**14**	**4**	**2**	**9**	**1**
				CINCINNATI	**.200**	**2**	**5**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Louisville (AAA)	.340	15	50	11	3	6	0
	Alex Sanchez	L-L	8/26/76	**TAMPA BAY**	**.346**	**43**	**133**	**28**	**2**	**13**	**6**
				SAN FRANCISCO	**.256**	**19**	**43**	**4**	**0**	**3**	**2**
14	Josh Willingham	R-R	2/17/79	**FLORIDA**	**.277**	**142**	**502**	**62**	**26**	**74**	**2**

New York Mets

2007 Prediction: 1st

2006 Finish: 97–65

NL East

The Mets were stunned to end up losing in the seventh game of the National League Championship Series last fall. All year long, they had clearly been the best team in the league and believed that the World Series was their destiny. If their pitching holds together this time, there's no reason to think that this offensive powerhouse will be shut out once again in October.

Rotation From the calf and shoulder woes of Pedro Martinez to the elbow problems of Victor Zambrano (remember him?), the Mets' rotation dealt with injuries all season long. GM Omar Minaya proved resourceful, though, plugging in John Maine, a quiet offseason addition, and finding Orlando Hernandez and Oliver Perez in trades. Through it all, Tom Glavine was a steadying force, winning 15 games to bring him to the doorstep of 300. The Mets hope Maine will sustain his success over a full season, and if Perez can approach the form he showed in 2004, when he struck out 239 for the Pirates, the team will be thrilled. Look for the Mets to utilize their depth in high-ceiling starting pitching, with recent first-round draft picks Mike Pelfrey and Philip Humber getting strong consideration for a call-up. In Rick Peterson, the Mets believe they have an exceptional pitching coach whose use of high-tech biomechanics can help extract the most from his pupils.

JOSE REYES
shortstop

Bullpen Billy Wagner was a better closer than Braden Looper had been, and for the Mets' fans, that was enough to justify the team's four-year, $43 million investment in the hard-throwing lefty. Wagner was shaky in the playoffs, but he was 40-for-45 in converting save opportunities during the regular season and continued to blow away hitters, with 22 more strikeouts than innings. Duaner Sanchez's shoulder injury in a late July taxi crash hurt the setup corps, but Guillermo Mota and Aaron Heilman combined to form a sturdy bridge to Wagner late in the season. The Mets are confident Mota will be solid again after serving a 50-game ban for violating baseball's steroids policy. The Mets lost submariner Chad Bradford to the Orioles because they would not give him a three-year contract, but they signed Scott Schoeneweis to a deal in January. Schoeneweis will team with Pedro Feliciano to give the Mets two quality lefties for middle- and late-inning work.

Middle Infield While Jose Reyes continues to dazzle with all the ways he can beat a team, the Mets got an unexpected boost from second baseman Jose Valentin, who was rescued off the scrap heap and rose to become a dependable starter at second. Valentin cut down on his strikeouts while maintaining an above-average power stroke for a second baseman. The Mets re-signed him, but at 37, he is not a long-term answer. Reyes, of course, is — the Mets locked him up with a contract extension through 2010. Baseball had gone more than 10 years since a player stole 60 bases in consecutive seasons before Reyes did it in 2005 and '06. He had more chances to go last year after nearly doubling his walk total from 27 to 53 — a sure sign of sophistication for a fast-rising star.

Corners The Mets can't complain about the production of their corner infielders in 2006. Third baseman David Wright and first baseman Carlos Delgado combined for 64 homers and 230 runs batted in. Wright followed Delgado in the batting order and did most of his damage before the All-Star break; Delgado came on stronger late in the year. Neither player hurt the Mets on defense, as both Wright and Delgado reduced their error totals compared to 2005 by five and six, respectively. There is no reason to think either player's production will decline this season.

Outfield Moises Alou turned down multi-year free agent offers to sign a one-year deal with the Mets, who were thrilled to get him. Alou torched left-handed pitching last season and remains a feared hitter, though injuries to his ankle and back limited him to 98 games for the Giants last year. In center, Carlos Beltran nearly fashioned an MVP year with an all-around masterpiece of a season, winning a Gold Glove while banging out 80 extra-base hits. But Beltran still needs to learn how to handle Shea Stadium, where he batted just .224. Shawn Green was added in August to solidify right field, but at age 34, Green seems to be a shadow of the player who belted 49 homers for the Dodgers in 2001.

Catching Paul Lo Duca gave the Mets everything they wanted from their catcher in 2006. Though 76 percent of potential base stealers were successful against him, Lo Duca was a leader for the pitching staff and a consistently solid hitter, batting .338 after the All-Star break and finishing at .318, only two points shy of his career high. He almost never strikes out and proved to be effective in the No. 2 hole behind Reyes. Lo Duca also showed a

STATLINE

Most Consecutive Winning Seasons

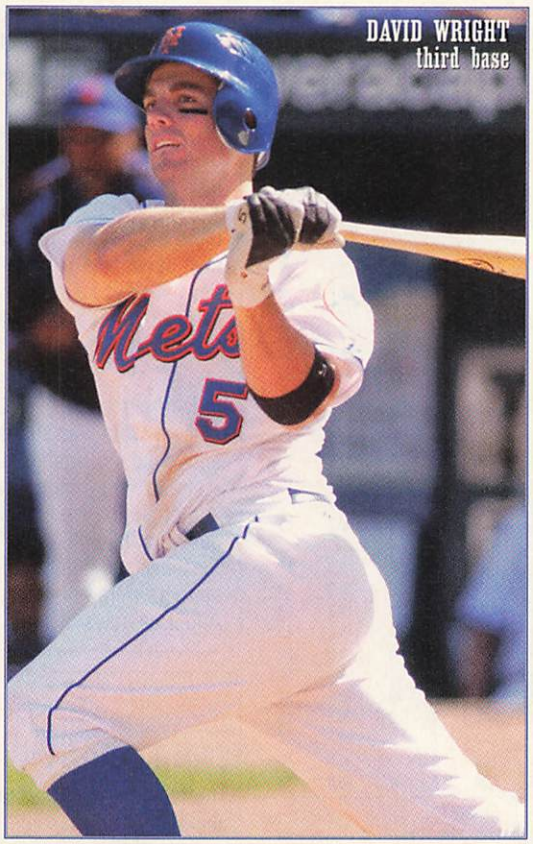
1. Grover Alexander	.19	(1911-1929)
2t. Pedro Martinez	**.14**	**(1993-2006)**
2t. Greg Maddux	.14	(1991-2004)
4t. Whitey Ford	.13	(1953-1965)
4t. Bob Gibson	.13	(1961-1973)

steely resolve, keeping his cool and performing well despite persistent tabloid headlines about his personal life.

Bench This was a weakness of the Mets in the playoffs, when the Cardinals seemed to have an extra weapon at every position. Endy Chavez gives the team a jolt in the field and on the bases, and Ramon Castro is a capable backup catcher. But for a team with the financial might of the Mets, there is no reason not to have a better bench than the one they have on paper this spring. Mets pinch-hitters batted .187 last year, the worst mark in the National League, and the team needs more pop from Julio Franco and the newly signed Damion Easley and David Newhan.

Management The Mets' empire is at a high point. Image-conscious owner Fred Wilpon, often beset with bland losing teams or renegade winners, has a team that represents the Mets brand well both on and off the field. Wilpon has taken a background role while his son, Jeff, oversees the daily operations of the club. Minaya and his lengthy list of advisors have built on the foundation of Reyes and Wright, spending heavily on premium talent while avoiding regrettable contracts for mediocre players. Willie Randolph has proven to be a wise choice as manager, giving the Mets the kind of top-down stability they have lacked for years.

Final Analysis With rising cable revenue, a new stadium coming and an exciting mix of young and veteran stars, the Mets should give their fans plenty to cheer about for years. But make no mistake — after falling just short of the World Series 2006, the pressure is on this team to bring a pennant back to Shea. It's a reasonable goal, and anything less must be considered a failure, just the way it is with the Yankees across town.


DAVID WRIGHT
third base

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Jose Reyes
High-Dividend Hurler: Billy Wagner
Buy Recommendation: Oliver Perez
Sell Recommendation: Jose Valentin
Medical (In)Securities: Pedro Martinez
IPO: OF Lastings Milledge
Futures Market: RHP Mike Pelfrey
Insider Tip: This team's non-closer relievers will have nice value.

STATISTICIAN

.199 Average by righthanders off Orlando Hernandez.
2 Seasons remaining at Shea Stadium for the Mets, who move to Citi Field in 2009.
4 Consecutive seasons as an All-Star for Paul Lo Duca.
5 Teams for whom Moises Alou has been an All-Star, tied with Gary Sheffield for the major league record.
5 Number of key categories in which Carlos Beltran set career highs: homers, RBI, runs, doubles and walks.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

By the time the playoffs started last season, the Mets' pitching was in tatters. Yet, as always, Tom Glavine stayed strong. He has never been on the disabled list in a career that started in 1987, and his health is more important than ever to a largely unproven rotation. Glavine evened his overall record in New York last season with a terrific 15–7 showing, leaving him only 10 wins shy of 300. The Mets will be counting on him for consistent quality if they want to make the most of their dynamic offense again.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

SS Jose Reyes
Arguably the game's most exciting player; improving in all areas.

C Paul Lo Duca
A fiery field general and the definition of a professional hitter.

CF Carlos Beltran
Called third strike to end NLCS could haunt him with Mets fans.

1B Carlos Delgado
Needs 28 HR to pass Juan Gonzalez for tops among Puerto Ricans.

3B David Wright
Where did his power go? Hit 20 HR before the break, 6 after.

LF Moises Alou
Hit .349 against lefties for the Giants last season.

RF Shawn Green
Lackluster after trade from Arizona; hit well in playoffs (10-for-32).

2B Jose Valentin
Comeback season included a 60-game errorless streak.

BENCH PLAYERS

INF Damion Easley
Veteran of six teams plays every infield position.

UT David Newhan
Can play anywhere but catcher and gives Mets a lefty bat.

C Ramon Castro
Knee surgery in August but returned to make postseason roster.

OF Endy Chavez
Catch in Game 7 against Cards nearly made him a folk hero.

OF Lastings Milledge
Will continue to be the Mets' primary chip in trade talks.

1B Julio Franco
Mets hoped for more than 12 extra-base hits from ageless wonder.

ROTATION

LHP Tom Glavine
Exactly .500 (48–48) over four seasons in New York.

RHP Orlando Hernandez
Eight major league seasons, eight playoff teams.

RHP John Maine
In his last 12 regular-season starts, Mets' record was 10–2.

LHP Oliver Perez
Mets will focus on splendid Game 7 and still-dominant stuff.

LHP Dave Williams
One year removed from a solid year for Pirates (10–11 in '05).

BULLPEN

LHP Billy Wagner
Converted last 21 saves, counting postseason.

LHP Pedro Feliciano
Reliable lefty with 1.93 ERA in six playoff games.

LHP Scott Schoeneweis
Allowed one run over his final 19 games for Cincy in '06.

RHP Ambiorix Burgos
137 strikeouts in 136.2 innings over two seasons for Royals.

RHP Guillermo Mota
Suspended for steroid use for first 50 games this season.

RHP Duaner Sanchez
Held RH to .179 AVG before separating shoulder in taxi crash.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Willie Randolph **COACHES:** Sandy Alomar Sr., Guy Conti, Rick Down, Howard Johnson, Jerry Manuel, Tom Nieto, Rick Peterson

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
	Jon Adkins	L-R	8/30/77	**SAN DIEGO**	2-1	3.98	55	0	54.1	30
				Portland (AAA)	1-0	1.38	13	7	13.0	11
	Adam Bostick	L-L	3/17/83	Albuquerque (AAA)	1-2	4.67	5	0	27.0	30
				Carolina (AA)	8-7	3.52	22	0	115.0	109
	Ambiorix Burgos	R-R	4/18/84	**KANSAS CITY**	4-5	5.52	68	18	73.1	72
25	Pedro Feliciano	L-L	8/25/76	**NEW YORK NL**	7-2	2.09	64	0	60.1	54
47	Tom Glavine	L-L	3/25/66	**NEW YORK NL**	15-7	3.82	32	0	198.0	131
48	Aaron Heilman	R-R	11/12/78	**NEW YORK NL**	4-5	3.62	74	0	87.0	73
26	Orlando Hernandez	R-R	10/11/69	**NEW YORK NL**	9-7	4.09	20	0	116.2	112
				ARIZONA	2-4	6.11	9	0	45.2	52
49	Philip Humber	R-R	12/21/82	**NEW YORK NL**	0-0	0.00	2	0	2.0	2
				Binghamton (AA)	2-2	2.88	6	0	34.1	36
				St. Lucie (A)	3-1	2.37	7	0	38.0	36
				GCL Mets (R)	0-0	6.75	1	0	4.0	7
33	John Maine	R-R	5/8/81	**NEW YORK NL**	6-5	3.60	16	0	90.0	71
				Norfolk (AAA)	3-5	3.49	10	0	56.2	48
				St. Lucie (A)	1-0	0.00	1	0	5.0	7
45	Pedro Martinez	R-R	10/25/71	**NEW YORK NL**	9-8	4.48	23	0	132.2	137
59	Guillermo Mota	R-R	7/25/73	**NEW YORK NL**	3-0	1.00	18	0	18.0	19
				CLEVELAND	1-3	6.21	34	0	37.2	27
28	Juan Padilla	R-R	2/17/77	INJURED			Missed Season			
34	Mike Pelfrey	R-R	1/14/84	**NEW YORK NL**	2-1	5.48	4	0	21.1	13
				Norfolk (AAA)	1-0	2.25	2	0	8.0	6
				Binghamton (AA)	4-2	2.71	12	0	66.1	77
				St. Lucie (A)	2-1	1.64	4	0	22.0	26
46	Oliver Perez	L-L	8/15/81	**NEW YORK NL**	1-3	6.38	7	0	36.2	41
				Norfolk (AAA)	1-2	6.05	4	0	19.1	26
				PITTSBURGH	2-10	6.63	15	0	76.0	61
				Indianapolis (AAA)	1-3	5.63	6	0	32.0	34
50	Duaner Sanchez	R-R	10/14/79	**NEW YORK NL**	5-1	2.60	49	0	55.1	44
	Scott Schoeneweis	L-L	10/2/73	**TORONTO**	2-2	6.55	55	1	37.1	18
				CINCINNATI	2-0	0.63	16	3	14.1	11
46	Steve Schmoll	R-R	2/4/80	Norfolk (AAA)	5-4	4.69	42	0	55.2	42
	Alay Soler	R-R	10/9/79	**NEW YORK NL**	2-3	6.00	8	0	45.0	23
				Norfolk (AAA)	1-1	6.30	2	0	10.0	12
				Binghamton (AA)	1-0	2.75	3	0	19.2	22
				St. Lucie (A)	2-0	0.60	6	0	30.0	33
	Jason Standridge	R-R	11/9/78	**CINCINNATI**	1-1	4.82	21	0	18.2	18
				Louisville (AAA)	2-2	2.93	37	0	46.0	43
	Jason Vargas	L-L	2/2/83	**FLORIDA**	1-2	7.33	12	0	43.0	25
				Albuquerque (AAA)	3-6	7.43	13	0	69.0	51
13	Billy Wagner	L-L	7/25/71	**NEW YORK NL**	3-2	2.24	70	40	72.1	94
32	Dave Williams	L-L	3/12/79	**NEW YORK NL**	3-1	5.59	6	0	29.0	16
				Norfolk (AAA)	2-2	3.68	7	0	36.2	17
				GC Mets (R)	1-0	0.00	2	0	8.0	10
				CINCINNATI	2-3	7.20	8	0	40.0	16

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
11	Ramon Castro	R-R	3/1/76	**NEW YORK NL**	.238	40	126	13	4	12	0
				GC Mets (R)	.667	1	3	0	0	2	0
16	Paul Lo Duca	R-R	4/12/72	**NEW YORK NL**	.318	124	512	80	5	49	3

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
21	Carlos Delgado	L-R	6/25/72	**NEW YORK NL**	.265	144	524	89	38	114	0
	Damion Easley	R-R	11/11/69	**ARIZONA**	.233	90	189	24	9	28	1
23	Julio Franco	R-R	8/23/58	**NEW YORK NL**	.273	95	165	14	2	26	6
	Ruben Gotay	S-R	12/25/82	Norfolk (AAA)	.266	42	154	19	3	21	4
				Omaha (AAA)	.264	87	337	45	9	43	7
1	Anderson Hernandez	S-R	10/30/82	**NEW YORK NL**	.152	25	66	4	1	3	0
				Norfolk (AAA)	.249	102	414	44	0	23	15
7	Jose Reyes	S-R	6/11/83	**NEW YORK NL**	.300	153	647	122	19	81	64
	Jose Valentin	S-R	10/12/69	**NEW YORK NL**	.271	137	384	56	18	62	6
5	David Wright	R-R	12/20/82	**NEW YORK NL**	.311	154	582	96	26	116	20

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
18	Moises Alou	R-R	7/3/66	**SAN FRANCISCO**	.301	98	345	52	22	74	2
15	Carlos Beltran	S-R	4/24/77	**NEW YORK NL**	.275	140	510	127	41	116	18
10	Endy Chavez	L-L	2/7/78	**NEW YORK NL**	.306	133	353	48	4	42	12
	Carlos Gomez	R-R	12/4/85	Binghamton (AA)	.281	120	430	53	7	48	41
20	Shawn Green	L-L	11/10/72	**NEW YORK NL**	.257	34	113	14	4	15	0
				ARIZONA	.283	115	417	59	11	51	4
	Ben Johnson	R-R	6/18/81	**SAN DIEGO**	.250	58	120	19	4	12	3
				Portland (AAA)	.263	51	198	35	7	22	7
44	Lastings Milledge	R-R	4/5/85	**NEW YORK NL**	.241	56	166	14	4	22	1
				Norfolk (AAA)	.277	84	307	52	7	36	13
	David Newhan	L-R	9/7/73	**BALTIMORE**	.252	39	31	14	4	18	4

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

POPS Julio Franco became the oldest player ever to hit a home run last season, and this year he turns 49 on Aug. 23. He says his secret to longevity is a healthy — and unusual — diet. Franco typically starts each morning with 14 or so egg whites, along with oatmeal, bell peppers, a banana and freshly squeezed grapefruit juice. Then he has four or five more meals during the course of a day.

THE FRIENDLY SKIES When David Wright was growing up, he and his three brothers were called "The Wright Brothers." But who knew that Wright would grow up to have his name on an airplane? The day before the playoffs started, Delta named a plane in Wright's honor — the David Wright Flight, an MD-88 that serves Boston, New York and Washington. A sticker with Wright's name, picture and signature is affixed to the side of the plane next to the door.

CITI LIGHTS The Mets are due for a windfall of cash when their new ballpark, Citi Field, opens in 2009. Citigroup will pay the Mets $20 million per year for 20 years for the naming rights, but the deal is actually worth even more to the Mets because Citigroup will advertise on the team's television network. For now, the new yard is under construction beyond right field in the Shea Stadium parking lot. A rotunda-shaped entryway to the park will be modeled after the one at Ebbets Field and named for Jackie Robinson.

'ROID RELIEF? The Mets sent a questionable message when they re-signed reliever Guillermo Mota for two years and $5 million. Mota was suspended for steroid use after the season and faces a 50-game suspension at the start of 2007. The Mets said they were satisfied that Mota had shown remorse and opted to give him another chance. Beyond the moral question, though, is the baseball one: Mota had a 6.21 ERA for Cleveland before posting a 1.00 mark for the Mets. If the steroids were not helping him, then why did Mota use them? And if he stays clean in '07, how effective will he be?

THE FARM SYSTEM

2006 Top Draft Pick

The Mets did not draft until the 62nd overall pick last season. When they finally had a pick, they snagged a Philadelphia product: righthander **Kevin Mulvey** from Villanova. Mulvey, a New Jersey native who grew up a Mets fan, has a 95 mph fastball and was durable enough to throw five complete games for Villanova last year. The Mets put him on the fast track, giving him three starts for Class AA Binghamton. He was 0–1 in those games but had a 1.35 ERA.

Prospects

RHP Mike Pelfrey Knocking on the door after rapid rise.
RHP Philip Humber Could make an impact in New York this season after successful return from Tommy John surgery.
OF Carlos Gomez Speedy center fielder with a strong arm and a smooth swing who could advance to AAA.
C Francisco Pena Son of Tony Pena is a long way off.
OF Fernando Martinez Only 18, but Mets signed him for $1.4 million in '05, and he is rising in the lower ranks.

Bill Mitchell

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Philadelphia Phillies

2007 Prediction: 2nd

2006 Finish: 85–77

NL East

In less than two full seasons in the majors, Ryan Howard has won everything except the Nobel Prize and the World Series. Winning the World Series, of course, is contingent on making the playoffs, and the Phillies haven't done that since Howard was in middle school. From the reigning National League MVP in the middle of the batting order to an upgraded starting pitching staff, there is much to like about this team, even if the bullpen is a concern. This could be the year the Phillies end their 13-year postseason drought and join the October fun.

Rotation Manager Charlie Manuel couldn't hide his excitement when Freddy Garcia was acquired from the White Sox in December. "I'd say we picked us up an ace," he said. "We've got some good starting pitching." Regardless, if Garcia fits the definition of a true ace, the rotation is a strength, possibly one of the best in the NL with the 31-year-old, 116-game winner joining Brett Myers, Cole Hamels, Jamie Moyer and Adam Eaton. Veteran Jon Lieber could also be in the picture, though the team was dangling him as trade bait for much-needed bullpen reinforcement. In Myers and Hamels, the Phils have two terrific young arms with top-of-the-rotation stuff. In the past two seasons, Myers, 26, has added a cut fastball and a splitter to an already impressive arsenal. Hamels finally stayed healthy in 2006 and showed why the organization made him its top pick in 2002. The lanky lefty, who turned 23 in December, dazzled with his poise and jaw-dropping changeup. Myers and Hamels ranked first and second in the NL with 107 and 101 strikeouts, respectively, after the All-Star break. Garcia will likely break up lefties Hamels and Moyer. The 44-year-old Moyer arrived in a late-season trade with Seattle and proved valuable on the mound (the Phils won six of his eight starts) and in the clubhouse, where he became a mentor to the precocious Hamels. Eaton returns to the team that made him a first-round pick in 1996. He has the stuff to be a consistent winner, but his durability is suspect.

RYAN HOWARD
first base

Bullpen The condition of closer Tom Gordon's high-mileage shoulder and an overall lack of depth make this the team's biggest area of concern. Look for GM Pat Gillick to tinker with the mix all season, and the results could be make or break. Gordon, 39, pitched brilliantly in the first half of 2006 and made the All-Star team but later missed nearly a month with a shoulder strain. The Phils spent much off the offseason trying to acquire a back-end arm to work the eighth inning and serve as insurance for Gordon. Barring an acquisition, in-house candidates Geoff Geary and Ryan Madson could get the call. Geary was a workhorse in 2006, appearing in 81 games. The enigmatic Madson has the fastball and changeup to succeed but needs to rebuild his confidence after bouncing between the rotation and bullpen en route to a 5.69 ERA last season. Lefties Matt Smith, Eude Brito and Fabio Castro could contribute. Rule 5 picks Jim Ed Warden and Alfredo Simon (picked by Baltimore before being shipped to Philly) will get looks in spring training, along with Joe Bisenius, a righthander with a hard, sinking fastball.

Middle Infield Second baseman Chase Utley and shortstop Jimmy Rollins, both 28, have blossomed into one of the majors' best tandems. They combined for 394 hits, 57 homers and 185 RBIs in 2006. Rollins is a brilliant defender. He made only 11 errors in 157 games and added pop at the plate with 25 homers to go along with 36 steals out of the leadoff hole. Utley is a fan favorite and one of the game's most respected players for his offensive production and all-out, all-the-time style of play. He's coming off two straight 100-RBI seasons and the first of what should be many starts in the All-Star Game.

Corners The man at third base might need an introduction, but the guy at first surely doesn't. Howard's spectacular 58-homer, 149-RBI season made him the most popular athlete in sports-crazed Philadelphia and earned him the distinction of being one of the most feared hitters in the game. Houston manager Phil Garner confirmed that in September when he had Howard walked intentionally leading off the bottom of the ninth in a tie game. Teams will pitch Howard carefully, but if his first 266 games (.304, 82 homers, 217 RBIs) are an indication, he'll continue to be a mega-force. Oh yeah, Wes Helms is the new guy at third.

Outfield Pat Burrell survived another winter of trade rumors and returns for his eighth season in left. Despite averaging 30.5 homers and 106 RBIs the last two seasons, Burrell has largely been viewed as an underachiever, and team officials have not hidden their desire to move him and replace him with someone like Alfonso Soriano, whom they made an aggressive but unsuccessful pitch to this winter. Burrell can play himself back into favor by improving production with runners in scoring position (.222 last season) and making teams think twice

STATLINE

Most Career Starts Without a Shutout

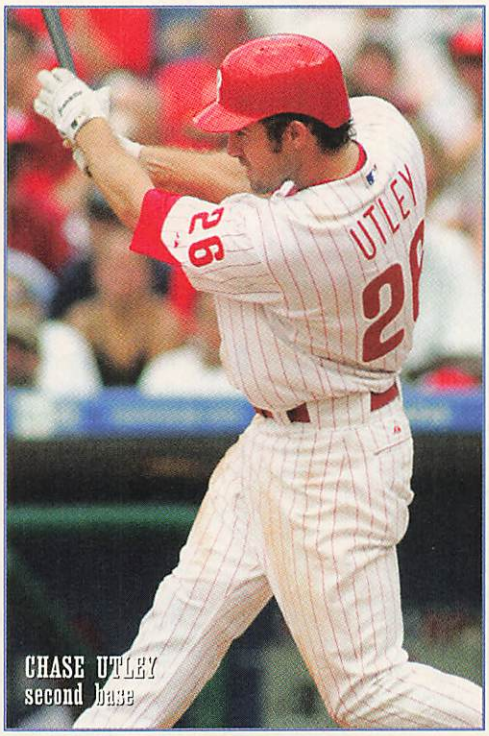
1. Jason Bere.....203
2. Paul Wilson.....153
3. Tony Armas Jr.....151
4. **Adam Eaton**.....**144**
5. Willie Blair.....139

about pitching around Howard. A chronic right foot injury has hampered Burrell on the bases and in the outfield. Mobility is not a problem in center and right, where Aaron Rowand and Shane Victorino are both top defenders. The speedy Victorino impressed last season. He'll bat second and new baserunning guru Davey Lopes will urge him to be aggressive.

Catching An era ended when Mike Lieberthal became a free agent, ending a run of 10 straight Opening Day starts with the club. Longtime farmhand Carlos Ruiz and veteran Rod Barajas, signed as a free agent, are slated to share time, though one could emerge as the regular. Barajas saw significant duty with Texas, and that probably gives him an edge.

Bench The Phils hit just .209 in pinch-hitting situations last year and their best pinch-hitter, David Dellucci, is gone. Switch-hitting backup infielder Abraham Nunez needs to be more productive in that role. Chris Coste catches, plays the corner infield spots and swings a pretty good bat. The Phils are hoping right-handed-hitting outfielder Jayson Werth, who showed promise with the Dodgers in 2004 and '05, is ready to contribute after missing last season with a wrist injury.

Management Manuel is in the final year of a three-year contract. While some of his pitching moves and strategic decisions can be head-scratchers, few are better than Manuel at keeping a team together and making players believe. His guidance helped turn around what seemed to be a lost season in 2006. But keeping the team in contention until the final weekend, as Manuel has done the last two years, probably won't be enough. It's playoffs or else. Upper management made that clear by encouraging wholesale changes to the coaching staff.


CHASE UTLEY
second base

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Ryan Howard
High-Dividend Hurler: Brett Myers
Buy Recommendation: Cole Hamels
Sell Recommendation: Freddy Garcia
Medical (In)Securities: Scott Mathieson
IPO: C Carlos Ruiz
Futures Market: OF Mike Bourn
Insider Tip: Closer Tom Gordon is vulnerable, with Ryan Madson next in line.

STATISTICIAN

63 Pat Burrell's called third strike total, which led the bigs for the second consecutive season.
865 Runs scored by the Phillies in 2006, tops in the NL.
5 Number of games new third baseman Wes Helms started at the position for Florida in '06.
41 RBIs for Ryan Howard in August, the most by a major leaguer in a month since Frank Howard had 41 for the Dodgers in July 1962.
203 Hits for Chase Utley in '06, second-most in the NL.
0 Errors by outfielder Shane Victorino in 277 total chances in his career.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

In a win-now mode, the Phillies gave up highly regarded lefty Gio Gonzalez and righthander Gavin Floyd, a former first-rounder, to get **Freddy Garcia**. It was a high price considering Garcia's impending free agency, but the Phils had to do it because they believe he can help get them to the postseason. "Getting an experienced guy who has been in pennant races and done the things Freddy has makes sense," assistant GM Mike Arbuckle said. If the Phils make the playoffs, Garcia, Brett Myers and Cole Hamels could be a tough threesome in a short series. Garcia is 6–2 with a 3.11 ERA in nine postseason starts.

Final Analysis Scoring runs won't be a problem. Myers, Hamels and Garcia are a formidable top 3. If Gordon stays healthy — a must — and Gillick works a little magic in the bullpen, the long playoff drought just might end with a division title — or at least a wild-card berth.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

SS Jimmy Rollins
Set club record for HRs and runs scored by a shortstop.

RF Shane Victorino
Two-time Rule 5 pick was an offensive catalyst and top defender.

2B Chase Utley
Third Phillie with 200 hits and 30 HRs in the same season.

1B Ryan Howard
First Phillie since Mike Schmidt in 1986 to win the MVP.

LF Pat Burrell
Drove in a run every 4.86 at-bats in '06 — seventh-best in NL.

3B Wes Helms
Batted .385 with 29 RBIs in 130 second-half at-bats for Florida.

CF Aaron Rowand
Broken nose and ankle limited him to 109 games in '06.

C Rod Barajas
Gives the Phils some experience; hit 21 homers for Texas in '05.

BENCH

INF Abraham Nunez
He'll get time at third but needs to improve as a pinch-hitter.

C/INF Chris Coste
Likable, versatile and valuable; hit .333 in the second half.

OF Jayson Werth
Can play three outfield positions and has some pop in his bat.

OF Chris Roberson
Hit .292 with 25 SBs in 74 games at Triple-A Scranton.

C Carlos Ruiz
Was a .300 hitter at Triple-A; should get plenty of ABs.

ROTATION

RHP Brett Myers
Has posted double-digit wins four years in a row.

LHP Cole Hamels
Went 6–3 with a 2.60 ERA and 76 Ks in his final 11 starts.

RHP Freddy Garcia
Comes to the NL having won 15-plus games four times.

LHP Jamie Moyer
20-year vet and 216-game winner provided a lift in '06.

RHP Adam Eaton
Combined to win 18 games over the last two seasons.

BULLPEN

RHP Tom Gordon
Can still bring it; struck out 68 in 59.1 IP in Phillie debut.

RHP Geoff Geary
Broke through with seven wins and a 2.96 ERA last season.

RHP Ryan Madson
Back in relief after a failed attempt at starting.

LHP Matt Smith
Former Yankee farmhand gave up two runs in 14 games.

LHP Fabio Castro
Little lefty with an electric arm showed poise and promise.

RHP Jim Ed Warden
The 6'7" side-armer will get a chance to make the club.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Charlie Manuel **COACHES:** Rich Dubee, Ramon Henderson, Davey Lopes, Steve Smith, Milt Thompson, Jimy Williams

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
58	Eude Brito	L-L	8/19/78	**PHILADELPHIA**	**1-2**	**7.36**	**5**	**0**	**18.1**	**9**
				Scranton (AAA)	10-8	3.17	26	1	147.2	103
52	Fabio Castro	L-L	1/20/85	**PHILADELPHIA**	**0-1**	**1.54**	**16**	**1**	**23.1**	**13**
				TEXAS	**0-0**	**4.32**	**4**	**0**	**8.1**	**5**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	0-0	4.91	1	0	3.2	5
				Frisco (AA)	0-1	1.98	5	0	13.2	10
55	Clay Condrey	R-R	11/19/75	**PHILADELPHIA**	**2-2**	**3.14**	**21**	**0**	**28.2**	**16**
				Scranton (AAA)	4-2	1.93	39	6	51.1	28
23	Adam Eaton	R-R	11/23/77	**TEXAS**	**7-4**	**5.12**	**13**	**0**	**65.0**	**43**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	0-0	1.50	2	0	6.0	8
				Frisco (AA)	0-0	1.42	2	0	6.1	5
	Anderson Garcia	R-R	3/23/81	Ottawa (AAA)	0-0	2.70	5	0	6.2	3
				Norfolk (AAA)	1-4	6.32	20	0	31.1	18
				Bowie (AA)	2-1	2.16	4	0	8.1	8
				Binghampton (AA)	1-1	1.29	11	1	21.0	17
				GCL Mets (R)	0-0	3.00	2	0	3.0	3
34	Freddy Garcia	R-R	6/10/76	**CHICAGO AL**	**17-9**	**4.53**	**33**	**0**	**216.1**	**135**
56	Geoff Geary	R-R	8/26/76	**PHILADELPHIA**	**7-1**	**2.96**	**81**	**1**	**91.1**	**60**
57	Justin Germano	R-R	8/6/82	**CINCINNATI**	**0-1**	**5.40**	**2**	**0**	**6.2**	**8**
				Louisville (AAA)	8-6	3.69	19	0	117.0	67
				Scranton (AAA)	2-0	2.82	6	0	38.1	25
45	Tom Gordon	R-R	11/18/67	**PHILADELPHIA**	**3-4**	**3.34**	**59**	**34**	**59.1**	**68**
				Clearwater (A)	0-0	0.00	2	0	4.0	9
35	Cole Hamels	L-L	12/27/83	**PHILADELPHIA**	**9-8**	**4.08**	**23**	**0**	**132.1**	**145**
				Scranton (AAA)	2-0	0.39	3	0	23.0	36
				Clearwater (A)	1-1	1.77	4	0	20.1	29
				Lakewood (A)	0-0	1.59	1	0	5.2	3
54	Yoel Hernandez	R-R	4/15/80	Scranton (AAA)	1-0	1.74	9	6	10.1	8
21	Jon Lieber	L-R	4/2/70	**PHILADELPHIA**	**9-11**	**4.93**	**27**	**0**	**168.0**	**100**
				Clearwater (A)	0-2	7.15	2	0	11.1	6
				GCL Phillies (R)	0-0	3.00	1	0	3.0	1
63	Ryan Madson	L-R	8/28/80	**PHILADELPHIA**	**11-9**	**5.69**	**50**	**2**	**134.1**	**99**
47	Scott Mathieson	R-R	2/27/84	**PHILADELPHIA**	**1-4**	**7.47**	**9**	**0**	**37.1**	**28**
				Scranton (AAA)	3-1	3.93	5	0	34.1	36
				Reading (AA)	7-2	3.21	14	0	92.2	99
50	Jamie Moyer	L-L	11/18/62	**PHILADELPHIA**	**5-2**	**4.03**	**8**	**0**	**51.1**	**26**
				SEATTLE	**6-12**	**4.39**	**25**	**0**	**160.0**	**82**
39	Brett Myers	R-R	8/17/80	**PHILADELPHIA**	**12-7**	**3.91**	**31**	**0**	**198.0**	**189**
48	Brian Sanches	R-R	8/8/78	**PHILADELPHIA**	**0-0**	**5.91**	**18**	**0**	**21.1**	**22**
				Scranton (AAA)	3-2	1.85	36	19	43.2	52
75	Zack Segovia	R-R	4/11/83	Reading (AA)	11-5	3.11	17	0	107.0	75
				Clearwater (A)	5-1	2.19	7	0	49.1	41
46	Alfredo Simon	R-R	5/8/81	Fresno (AAA)	0-6	6.75	10	0	52	35
				San Jose (A)	2-4	6.44	18	0	36.1	35
40	Matt Smith	L-L	6/15/79	**PHILADELPHIA**	**0-1**	**0.87**	**14**	**0**	**8.2**	**12**
				Scranton (AAA)	0-0	2.00	9	4	9.0	6
				Clearwater (A)	0-0	0.00	2	0	2.0	6
				NEW YORK AL	**0-0**	**0.00**	**12**	**0**	**12.0**	**9**
				Columbus (AAA)	0-1	2.08	24	0	26.0	22
49	Jim Ed Warden	R-R	5/7/79	Akron (AA)	5-2	2.90	55	11	59.0	47

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
2	Rod Barajas	R-R	9/5/75	**TEXAS**	**.256**	**97**	**344**	**49**	**11**	**41**	**0**
30	Ryan Budde	R-R	8/15/79	Salt Lake (AAA)	.233	72	215	32	8	33	1
27	Chris Coste	R-R	2/4/73	**PHILADELPHIA**	**.328**	**65**	**198**	**25**	**7**	**32**	**0**
				Scranton (AAA)	.177	39	147	12	2	14	1
51	Carlos Ruiz	R-R	1/22/79	**PHILADELPHIA**	**.261**	**27**	**69**	**5**	**3**	**10**	**0**
				Scranton (AAA)	.307	100	368	56	16	69	4

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
18	Wes Helms	R-R	5/12/76	**FLORIDA**	**.329**	**140**	**240**	**30**	**10**	**47**	**0**
6	Ryan Howard	L-L	11/19/79	**PHILADELPHIA**	**.313**	**159**	**581**	**104**	**58**	**149**	**0**
3	Abraham Nunez	S-R	3/16/76	**PHILADELPHIA**	**.211**	**123**	**322**	**42**	**2**	**32**	**1**
11	Jimmy Rollins	S-R	11/27/78	**PHILADELPHIA**	**.277**	**158**	**689**	**127**	**25**	**83**	**36**
4	Danny Sandoval	S-R	4/7/79	**PHILADELPHIA**	**.211**	**28**	**38**	**1**	**0**	**4**	**0**
				Scranton (AAA)	.255	91	345	31	2	39	1
				Reading (AA)	.290	8	31	1	0	2	2
26	Chase Utley	L-R	12/17/78	**PHILADELPHIA**	**.309**	**160**	**658**	**131**	**32**	**102**	**15**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
9	Michael Bourn	L-R	12/27/82	**PHILADELPHIA**	**.125**	**17**	**8**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**1**
				Scranton (AAA)	.276	38	152	34	1	15	15
				Reading (AA)	.274	80	318	62	4	26	30
5	Pat Burrell	R-R	10/10/76	**PHILADELPHIA**	**.258**	**144**	**462**	**80**	**29**	**95**	**0**
29	Chris Roberson	S-R	8/23/79	**PHILADELPHIA**	**.195**	**57**	**41**	**9**	**0**	**1**	**3**
				Scranton (AAA)	.292	74	284	44	1	17	25
33	Aaron Rowand	R-R	8/29/77	**PHILADELPHIA**	**.262**	**109**	**405**	**59**	**12**	**47**	**10**
8	Shane Victorino	S-R	11/30/80	**PHILADELPHIA**	**.287**	**153**	**415**	**70**	**6**	**46**	**4**
28	Jayson Werth	R-R	5/20/79	INJURED	Missed Season						

NL EAST

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

THE TURNAROUND The Phillies were 10th in the NL wild card race on July 28 last season, and GM Pat Gillick began a fire sale by unloading veterans David Bell, Bobby Abreu and Cory Lidle. In announcing a re-tooling, Gillick said he didn't see the Phils contending until 2008. The remaining players had other ideas. The Phils won 45 games (most in the NL) after the All-Star break and actually led the wild card with seven games to go only to flop in the final week.

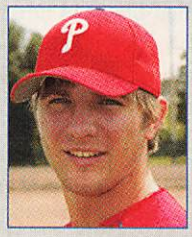
WELCOME JIMY The Phils made 104 errors in 2006, not a hideous total, but up from 90 in 2005. There was some concern about fundamentals and the team's readiness coming out of spring training after a 1–6 start. These concerns led to changes on the coaching staff. Jimy Williams, who has significant managerial experience, is the new bench coach and a stickler for teaching and fundamentals.

THE KEYSTONE BAT CO. Jimmy Rollins and Chase Utley became the first NL double-play duo to ever reach 25 homers apiece in 2006. They also shared some hitting streak history. Rollins had the majors' longest in 2005 — 36 games — and Utley had the longest in 2006 at 35 games.

FEEL GOOD STORY Chris Coste figures to be an important role player on the club. Last year, the affable North Dakotan made it to the majors after 12 seasons in the minors, the first five of which were spent playing independent ball. At 33 years and 111 days, Coste was the oldest rookie to debut with the Phillies since Izzy Leon, who was 34 in 1945.

WHAT ELSE CAN HE DO? Ryan Howard needs a bigger trophy room. In a little over a year, starting with the 2005 Rookie of the Year, he won these honors: NL Most Valuable Player, Hank Aaron Award, Players Choice Player of the Year and Japan All-Star Series MVP.

THE FARM SYSTEM



2006 Top Draft Pick

Righthander **Kyle Drabek** might have had the best arm in the 2006 draft, but behavioral issues, including a public intoxication charge that was eventually dropped and a hot temper, scared teams away. Always on the lookout for high-risk, high-reward talent, the Phils selected him 18th overall. They believe that with some maturity, the son of 1990 NL Cy Young winner Doug Drabek will develop into a top of the rotation starter. Drabek boasts a devastating curveball and a mid-90s fastball that hit 97 mph as a senior at The Woodlands High in Texas.

Prospects

RHP Carlos Carrasco The 19-year-old Venezuelan was the organization's Minor League Pitcher of the Year in 2006.

LHP J.A. Happ The 6'6" lefty out of Northwestern had a 2.70 ERA in 26 starts at three minor league levels in '06.

OF Michael Bourn The speedy outfielder might be just a year away from regular duty in Philadelphia.

C Jason Jaramillo Considered the catcher of the future, he hit .379 with 17 RBIs in 17 games in the Arizona Fall League.

RHP Joe Bisenius A 12th-round draft pick in '04, he was the biggest eye-opener in the system last year.

Cliff Welch

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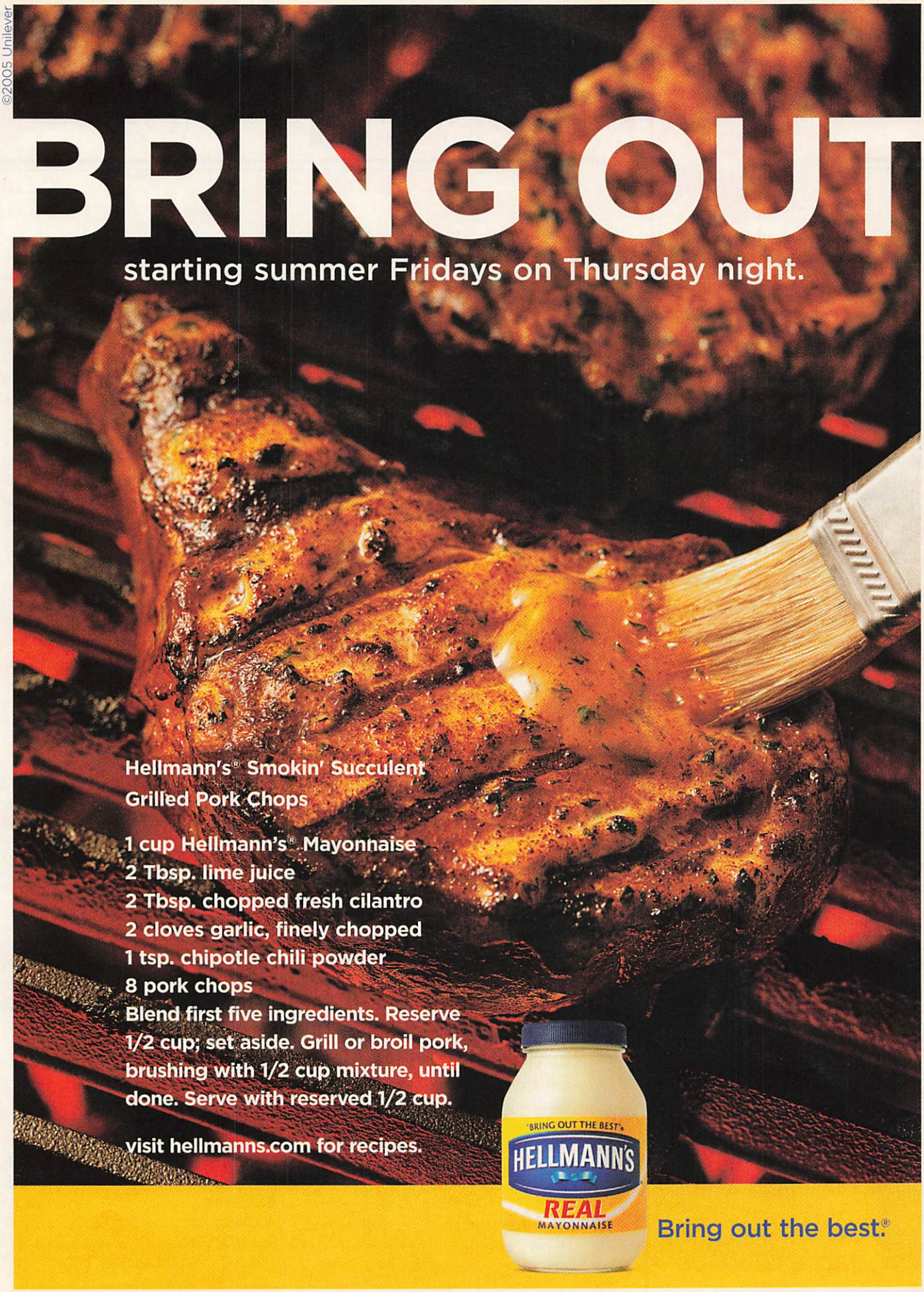
BRING OUT
starting summer Fridays on Thursday night.
Hellmann's® Smokin' Succulent Grilled Pork Chops
1 cup Hellmann's® Mayonnaise
2 Tbsp. lime juice
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 tsp. chipotle chili powder
8 pork chops
Blend first five ingredients. Reserve 1/2 cup; set aside. Grill or broil pork, brushing with 1/2 cup mixture, until done. Serve with reserved 1/2 cup.
visit hellmanns.com for recipes.
'BRING OUT THE BEST'®
HELLMANN'S
REAL
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Bring out the best.®

Washington Nationals

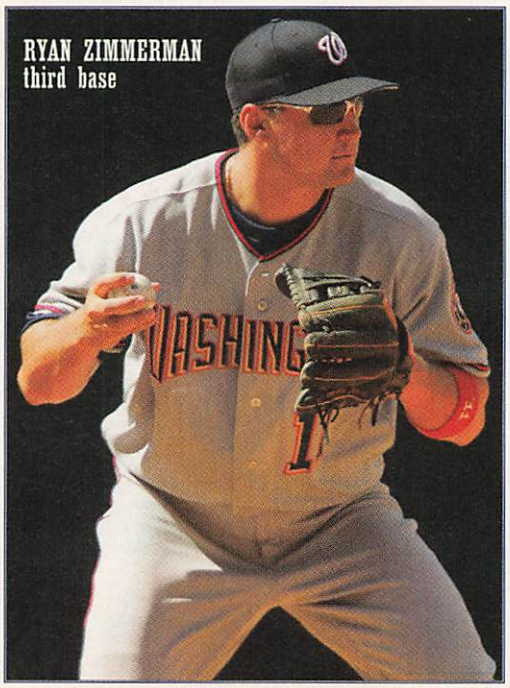
2007 Prediction: 5th

2006 Finish: 71–91

NL East

The Nationals finally have an owner, a permanent GM and a manager with some job security. But fans wishing for a windfall of wins probably will have to wait. With the new regime comes a plan to rebuild the long-neglected franchise, first through scouting and player development and only later, much later, through free agency. With that in mind, Nationals general manager Jim Bowden ignored this offseason's high-priced spending frenzy, and Washington's 2007 edition remains one filled with holes, from a patchwork starting rotation to an outfield filled with question marks.

Rotation Righthander John Patterson, who missed most of 2006 with a forearm injury, is expected to be the anchor of the team's rotation. But beyond Patterson, a rotation that ranked last in the National League in 2006 now consists of a hodgepodge of castaways and youngsters to be sorted out during spring training. No fewer than nine pitchers will compete for the final four spots in Washington's rotation, including four signed this offseason — righthander Tim Redding, who hasn't pitched in the big leagues since 2005, former Dodgers prospect Joel Hanrahan and righthander Colby Lewis, a former Rangers prospect who pitched briefly for Detroit last year, and Jerome Williams. Lefthanders Mike O'Connor and Billy Traber and righthanders Shawn Hill, Beltran Perez and Jason Bergmann earned starts for the Nationals in 2006 and are still in the mix.



Bullpen If the Nationals' starters can get the bullpen a lead, it should be safe. Righthander Luis Ayala missed all of last season after having ligament replacement surgery during spring training, but he's back to bolster a deep and talented group that should be among the team's strengths. Closer Chad Cordero saved 29 games last season, and though he couldn't match his 47-save performance in 2005, he's emerged as one of the game's most reliable stoppers. Righthander Jon Rauch had a breakout year and made a career-high 85 appearances, lefthander Micah Bowie was dominant in a 15-game stint, and the addition of lefthander Ray King adds another experienced arm. Righty Emiliano Fruto, acquired from the Seattle Mariners in a December trade for Jose Vidro, brings a mid-90s fastball and outstanding changeup.

Middle Infield A potential logjam was eased when Vidro was traded to the Mariners, but plenty of questions linger for the remaining members of the Nationals' middle infield. With Cristian Guzman returning from surgery to repair a torn labrum in his right shoulder, Felipe Lopez moves from shortstop to second base, where he hasn't played since 2005. Guzman, who is considered the better defensive shortstop, was signed to a four-year $16.8 million contract before the 2005 season, but so far, he's been a bust. He hit .219 in 2005 and didn't play last season, though team officials are hoping that Guzman's 2005 struggles were related to the shoulder injury and that he can revert to the player who hit no worse than .268 from 2001-04.

Corners The Nationals anticipated big things from third baseman Ryan Zimmerman, and the 22-year-old's explosive rookie campaign has left the team expecting even more in the future. Not only did Zimmerman hit .287 with 20 homers and 110 RBIs, but he was also unfazed by the pressure of hitting third and showed a knack for the dramatic. In the span of 19 days in June and July, he had three game-ending hits, including two homers and a single. Zimmerman and first baseman Nick Johnson could pack a potent punch in the middle of the Nationals' order, if Johnson is healthy. The knock on Johnson throughout his career has been injuries, and he almost made it through 2006 without incident — until he broke his right femur Sept. 23. Club officials are not optimistic Johnson will be ready to go by Opening Day. He might miss up to a month, giving rookie Larry Broadway a shot at the job in the early going.

Outfield The Nationals know what to expect from right fielder Austin Kearns. Team officials can't say the same thing about the other two outfield positions. Alfonso Soriano's departure opens the door for rookie left fielder Kory Casto, the organization's two-time Minor League Player of the Year. Casto was drafted as an outfielder out of the University of Portland in 2003, switched to third base in 2004 and switched back when the team drafted Zimmerman in 2005. He's batted .283 and averaged 19 homers and 86 RBIs over the last three minor league seasons, and he'll be given every chance to win the job in spring training. If he fails, however, the team could look to Ryan Church, Michael Restovich or Alex Escobar. Church and Escobar also will be in the running with Nook Logan for the team's center field job, and all three bring their own strengths to the position. Logan is the best defensive outfielder of the bunch and made several spectacular catches during a 27-game September stint.

STATLINE

Franchise's Highest Career OBP

1.	Nick Johnson	.407
2.	Rusty Staub	.402
3.	Ron Fairly	.381
4.	Al Oliver	.370
5.	Delino DeShields	.367

(minimum 1,000 plate appearances)

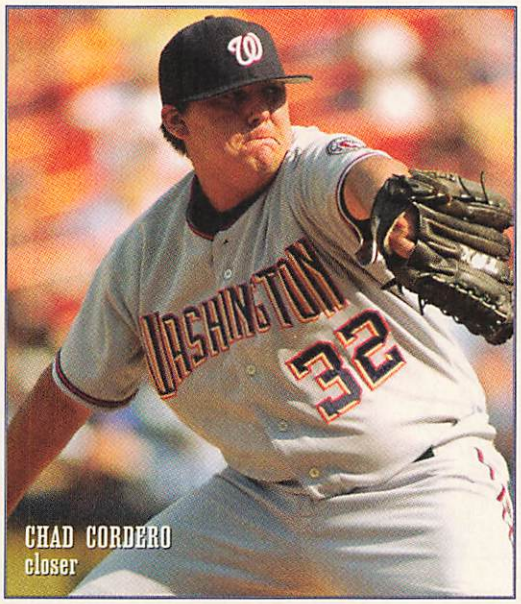
Zimmerman: Paul Jasienski/Getty Images; Cordero: Steve Moore

Catching After signing a $16 million contract extension before the season, Brian Schneider had a frustrating 2006 campaign, both at the plate and behind it. Schneider salvaged his offensive statistics with a strong September and finished with 55 RBIs and a .256 average, but he threw out only 30 percent of would-be basestealers. The Nationals took Mets prospect Jesus Flores in the Rule 5 draft, and though he's never played above Single-A, he'll be given every chance to stick as Schneider's backup.

Bench The Nationals traded top pinch hitters Marlon Anderson and Daryle Ward for prospects last season, leaving a relatively untested group in their wake. Robert Fick, however, will return, and the veteran will be the top bat off the bench — and intent on making up for a lost 2006. Fick hit .266 in 128 at-bats, but he should thrive with more work. Bernie Castro was a sparkplug in the lineup and an adequate middle infield defensive replacement last season. He'll be pushed by Josh Wilson, who spent last season in the Rockies' minor league system.

Management The Nationals replace one of the oldest big league managers, 71-year-old Frank Robinson, with the youngest, 37-year-old Manny Acta. Acta is known as a player's coach, and he brings an aggressive and outgoing style to the Nationals' dugout. Though he has no big league managing experience, he's skippered several teams in the Dominican Winter League and was the manager for the Dominican team in the World Baseball Classic. He'll be surrounded by experience, however. Pitching coach Randy St. Claire returns for his fourth season with the organization, hitting coach Mitchell Page is back for a second season, and former manager Pat Corrales will be Acta's bench coach.

Final Analysis While the rest of baseball jumped into the free agent market this offseason, the Nationals stood pat, content to take their lumps in 2007 while they rebuild from within. While Acta says he is not giving up on this season, the more realistic scenario has the Nats ready to contend in 2008, when the team's new stadium is scheduled to be completed.



FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Ryan Zimmerman
High-Dividend Hurler: Chad Cordero
Buy Recommendation: Ryan Church
Sell Recommendation: Felipe Lopez
Medical (In)Securities: John Patterson
IPO: OF Chris Snelling
Futures Market: OF Kory Casto
Insider Tip: The Nats will be lucky to have a 10-game winner.

STATISTICIAN

10 Number of center fielders used by the Nationals last season.
18 Number of rookies to appear for the Nationals in 2006, which ranked third in the majors behind Florida and Seattle.
.978 The Nationals' fielding percentage, which ranked last in the majors in 2006.
1,615 Games lost to the disabled list by Nationals players.
37 Age of new manager Manny Acta, who is the youngest skipper in the majors.
22 Losing seasons in the 38-year history of the franchise, which includes 2006's 71–91 mark.
5.03 Washington's team ERA, which ranked last in the National League and 28th in the majors.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

If **Nick Johnson** is healthy, he is one of the most talented and underrated offensive players in the National League. But Johnson's health is in doubt, perhaps more so than ever. Johnson, who has never made it through a season without a stint on the disabled list, broke his right femur in a violent on-field collision with right fielder Austin Kearns Sept. 23, and a rod was inserted in his thigh to help the fracture heal. He is expected to miss up to a month of the '07 season, and when he returns the rebuilding Nationals will need the first baseman to revert to his 2006 form when he set career-highs in OPS (.948), homers (23) and RBIs (77).

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

2B Felipe Lopez
Will have to adjust to second base and the leadoff spot.

SS Cristian Guzman
Awful in '05 (.219), injured in '06 (torn labrum).

3B Ryan Zimmerman
Established himself as franchise cornerstone as a rookie.

1B Nick Johnson
Likely to miss Opening Day after breaking his femur in September.

RF Austin Kearns
Gives Nats some needed power out of the 5-hole.

LF Kory Casto
Had 20 homers and 80 RBIs in Double-A in 2006.

C Brian Schneider
Leadership and defense are vital to team's success.

CF Nook Logan
Former Tigers' prospect will improve Nats' defense.

BENCH

C Jesus Flores
Rule 5 draft pick has never played above Single-A.

CF Alex Escobar
2006 fit his M.O. — .356 BA, hamstring and shoulder injuries.

UT Robert Fick
A pinch-hitter with some pop is a valued commodity.

INF Bernie Castro
Middle infielder hit well in AAA but struggled in the bigs.

OF Ryan Church
Fallen out of favor thanks to injuries and refusal to play winter ball.

1B Larry Broadway
Should be ready to jump to bigs after proving he can hit at AAA.

ROTATION

RHP John Patterson
Followed up breakout 2005 with injury-plagued '06.

RHP Tim Redding
Hasn't pitched in majors since 2005, but he's got experience.

RHP Joel Hanrahan
Was 62–45 with a 4.23 ERA in seven minor league seasons.

RHP Shawn Hill
Made six starts in return from ligament replacement surgery.

RHP Jerome Williams
Career 23–24; at age 25 there's still time to turn career around.

BULLPEN

RHP Chad Cordero
His saves were down by 18, but he held batters to .215 BA.

RHP Luis Ayala
Had a 2.75 ERA in three seasons prior to injuries.

RHP Jon Rauch
Set career-bests in games (85), holds (18) and ERA (3.35).

LHP Ray King
Specialist has held lefthanders to a .216 BA during his career.

LHP Micah Bowie
Journeyman was more effective with the Nats than in AAA.

RHP Emiliano Fruto
Best pitch is an outstanding changeup.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Manny Acta **COACHES:** Pat Corrales, Mitchell Page, Randy St. Claire, Tim Tolman, Jerry Morales, Rick Aponte

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
56	Luis Ayala	R-R	1/12/78	Did Not Play						
57	Jason Bergmann	R-R	9/25/81	**WASHINGTON**	**0-2**	**6.68**	**29**	**0**	**64.2**	**54**
				New Orleans (AAA)	8-2	3.28	26	4	60.1	62
30	Chris Booker	R-R	12/9/76	**WASHINGTON**	**0-0**	**3.38**	**10**	**0**	**7.1**	**7**
				New Orleans (AAA)	2-2	3.94	15	0	16.0	29
				KANSAS CITY	**0-0**	**54.00**	**1**	**0**	**1.0**	**0**
				Omaha (AAA)	0-0	7.71	4	0	4.2	6
				Wichita (AA)	0-0	4.15	4	0	4.1	5
				Scranton (AAA)	0-0	1.29	6	0	7.0	7
59	Micah Bowie	L-L	11/10/74	**WASHINGTON**	**0-1**	**1.37**	**15**	**0**	**19.2**	**11**
				New Orleans (AAA)	2-0	3.83	31	1	42.1	57
39	Brett Campbell	R-R	10/17/81	**WASHINGTON**	**0-0**	**10.38**	**4**	**0**	**4.1**	**4**
				New Orleans (AAA)	0-1	3.92	15	0	20.2	19
				Harrisburg (AA)	0-3	3.14	13	9	14.1	20
				Potomac (A)	3-1	2.38	19	8	22.2	27
	Matt Chico	L-L	6/10/83	Tennessee (AA)	7-2	2.22	13	0	81.0	63
				Lancaster (A)	3-4	3.75	10	0	50.1	49
				Harrisburg (AA)	2-0	3.27	4	0	22.0	13
32	Chad Cordero	R-R	3/18/82	**WASHINGTON**	**7-4**	**3.19**	**68**	**29**	**73.1**	**69**
	Emiliano Fruto	R-R	6/6/84	**SEATTLE**	**2-2**	**5.50**	**23**	**1**	**36.0**	**34**
				Tacoma (AAA)	1-3	3.18	28	10	45.1	55
	Joel Hanrahan	R-R	10/6/81	Las Vegas (AAA)	4-3	4.48	14	0	74.1	46
				Jacksonville (AA)	7-2	2.60	12	0	69.1	69
41	Shawn Hill	R-R	4/28/81	**WASHINGTON**	**1-3**	**4.66**	**6**	**0**	**36.2**	**16**
				Harrisburg (AA)	3-3	2.68	10	0	50.1	32
41	Michael Hinckley	R-L	10/5/82	Potomac (A)	6-8	5.52	28	0	148.1	79
48	Michael O'Connor	L-L	8/17/80	**WASHINGTON**	**3-8**	**4.80**	**21**	**0**	**105.0**	**59**
				New Orleans (AAA)	1-0	2.73	6	0	26.1	28
22	John Patterson	R-R	1/30/78	**WASHINGTON**	**1-2**	**4.43**	**8**	**0**	**40.2**	**42**
				Potomac (A)	0-1	5.19	2	0	8.2	11
54	Beltran Perez	R-R	10/24/81	**WASHINGTON**	**2-1**	**3.86**	**8**	**0**	**21.0**	**9**
				Harrisburg (AA)	8-6	3.11	31	1	121.2	107
51	Jon Rauch	R-R	9/27/78	**WASHINGTON**	**4-5**	**3.35**	**85**	**2**	**91.1**	**86**
	Tim Redding	R-R	2/12/78	Charlotte (AAA)	12-10	3.40	29	0	187.2	148
52	Saul Rivera	S-R	12/7/77	**WASHINGTON**	**3-0**	**3.43**	**54**	**1**	**60.1**	**41**
				New Orleans (AAA)	1-1	1.59	12	1	28.1	25
55	Chris Schroder	R-R	8/20/78	**WASHINGTON**	**0-2**	**6.35**	**21**	**0**	**28.1**	**39**
				New Orleans (AAA)	2-1	1.52	28	1	47.1	60
				Harrisburg (AA)	2-0	5.02	9	1	14.1	13
	Levale Speigner	R-R	9/24/80	Rochester (AAA)	1-1	4.97	9	1	12.2	8
				New Britain (AA)	3-2	3.26	40	13	58.0	37
40	Billy Traber	L-L	9/18/79	**WASHINGTON**	**4-3**	**6.44**	**15**	**0**	**43.1**	**25**
				New Orleans (AAA)	7-7	4.05	21	0	124.1	102
	Jermaine Van Buren	R-R	7/2/80	**BOSTON**	**1-0**	**11.77**	**10**	**0**	**13.0**	**8**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	4-0	2.98	33	16	45.1	46
35	Ryan Wagner	R-R	7/15/82	**WASHINGTON**	**3-3**	**4.70**	**26**	**0**	**30.2**	**20**
				New Orleans (AAA)	0-0	4.00	6	0	9.0	5
	Jerome Williams	R-R	12/4/81	**CHICAGO NL**	**0-2**	**7.30**	**5**	**0**	**12.1**	**5**
				Iowa (AAA)	5-7	4.76	29	0	111.2	52

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
	Jesus Flores	R-R	10/26/84	St. Lucie (A)	.266	120	429	66	21	70	2
23	Brian Schneider	L-R	11/26/76	**WASHINGTON**	**.256**	**124**	**410**	**30**	**4**	**55**	**2**
				Potomac (A)	.222	2	9	1	0	1	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
33	Larry Broadway	L-L	12/17/80	New Orleans (AAA)	.288	123	444	60	15	78	5
9	Bernie Castro	S-R	7/14/79	**WASHINGTON**	**.227**	**42**	**110**	**18**	**0**	**10**	**7**
				New Orleans (AAA)	.284	69	268	36	2	25	22
15	Cristian Guzman	S-R	3/21/78	Did Not Play							
24	Nick Johnson	L-L	9/19/78	**WASHINGTON**	**.290**	**147**	**500**	**100**	**23**	**77**	**10**
2	Felipe Lopez	S-R	5/12/80	**WASHINGTON**	**.281**	**71**	**274**	**43**	**2**	**22**	**21**
				CINCINNATI	**.268**	**85**	**343**	**55**	**9**	**30**	**23**
	Josh Wilson	R-R	3/26/81	Colo. Sprs.	.307	89	335	61	10	45	15
11	Ryan Zimmerman	R-R	9/28/84	**WASHINGTON**	**.287**	**157**	**614**	**84**	**20**	**110**	**11**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
28	Tony Blanco	R-R	11/10/81	Harrisburg (AA)	.290	9	31	2	2	8	0
				Potomac (A)	.255	54	196	24	8	32	3
73	Kory Casto	L-R	12/8/81	Harrisburg (AA)	.272	140	489	84	20	80	6
19	Ryan Church	L-L	10/14/78	**WASHINGTON**	**.276**	**71**	**196**	**22**	**10**	**35**	**6**
				New Orleans (AAA)	.246	53	175	29	7	29	5
				Harrisburg (AA)	.211	5	19	3	2	3	1
72	Frank Diaz	R-R	10/6/83	Harrisburg (AA)	.259	107	402	44	9	50	5
44	Alex Escobar	R-R	9/6/78	**WASHINGTON**	**.356**	**33**	**87**	**14**	**4**	**18**	**2**
				Harrisburg (AA)	.311	35	122	21	5	26	2
				GCL Nationals (R)	.143	3	7	1	0	1	0
28	Austin Kearns	R-R	5/20/80	**WASHINGTON**	**.250**	**63**	**212**	**33**	**8**	**36**	**2**
				CINCINNATI	**.274**	**87**	**325**	**53**	**16**	**50**	**7**
7	Nook Logan	S-R	11/28/79	Vermont (A)	.087	16	46	2	0	2	0
				GCL Nationals (R)	.364	14	22	3	0	2	0
	Michael Restovich	R-R	1/3/79	Iowa (AAA)	.293	120	443	75	27	85	2
	Chris Snelling	L-L	12/3/81	**SEATTLE**	**.250**	**36**	**96**	**14**	**3**	**8**	**2**
				Tacoma (AAA)	.216	69	241	36	5	39	4

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

A QUESTION OF HISTORY When Alfonso Soriano hit his 45th of 46th homers last season, he broke Vladimir Guerrero's franchise record, but was it really a record? Frank Howard hit 48 in 1969 with the Washington Senators, and the conundrum illuminates a potential sticking point for baseball's newest D.C. occupants. What history to adopt? The 36 seasons baseball was played in Montreal before the move to D.C., or the long history of baseball in Washington, which includes a 1924 world championship? So far, the Nationals have stuck with their Montreal roots, leaving the team's Washington past in the past.

VIVE LES EXPOS? When the Nationals traded Jose Vidro to the Seattle Mariners in December, they lost their longest-tenured player and one more link to the team's Montreal history. With Vidro gone, only eight players remain with ties to the Expos: Chad Cordero, John Patterson, Brian Schneider, Luis Ayala, Shawn Hill, Jon Rauch, Nick Johnson and Ryan Church.

ATTENDANCE DOWN AT RFK The shine of baseball's return to Washington dimmed in the Nationals' second year in D.C. Attendance at RFK Stadium was down more than 7,000 fans per game, from an average of 33,651 fans in 2005 (11th in the majors) to 26,582 in 2006 (21st). Perhaps more important, in the race for the hearts and minds of fans in the Baltimore-Washington area, Nationals attendance trailed Orioles attendance by an average of one fan per game.

TV TIME The Nationals and the Mid-Atlantic Sports Network fired television analyst Tom Paciorek and plan to replace him with Hall of Fame pitcher Don Sutton.

THE FARM SYSTEM

2006 Top Draft Pick

Chris Marrero, the 15th pick in June's draft, was the first of two Nationals' first-round picks (with the 22nd pick Washington took high school righthander Colton Willems), and he did not disappoint in a brief debut. The 18-year-old from Miami made a smooth transition from third base to left field and hit .309 with nine doubles and 16 RBIs in 22 games with Washington's Rookie Level Gulf Coast League affiliate. However, his season ended prematurely because of viral meningitis, and the Nationals will continue to take it slow with Marrero in 2007. His likely stop is Hagerstown, Md., of the low-Single-A South Atlantic League.

Prospects

RHP Colton Willems The Nats took it slow with the 22nd pick in the 2006 draft, limiting him to 16 GCL innings.

1B Larry Broadway Led all Nationals minor leaguers with a .288 BA in Triple-A.

RHP Zech Zinicola Rocketed through three minor league levels, going 4–1 with 12 saves and a 1.65 ERA.

LHP Matt Chico Acquired in an August trade, Chico sparkled in '06, winning 12 games at three stops.

RHP Collin Balester He was 5–5 with a 4.72 ERA between Single-A Potomac and Double-A Harrisburg.

David Stoner

Chicago Cubs

2007 Prediction: 4th

2006 Finish: 66–96
NL Central

The Cubs will find out if $300 million can go as far as it used to. They finished 66–96 in 2006, good for last place in the National League Central, and between hiring manager Lou Piniella, signing some of their own free agents (including Aramis Ramirez to a five-year, $75 million deal) and other free agents on the market (including Alfonso Soriano for eight years at $136 million) the Cubs are hoping to turn things around. And they're committing more than $300 million in salary to try.

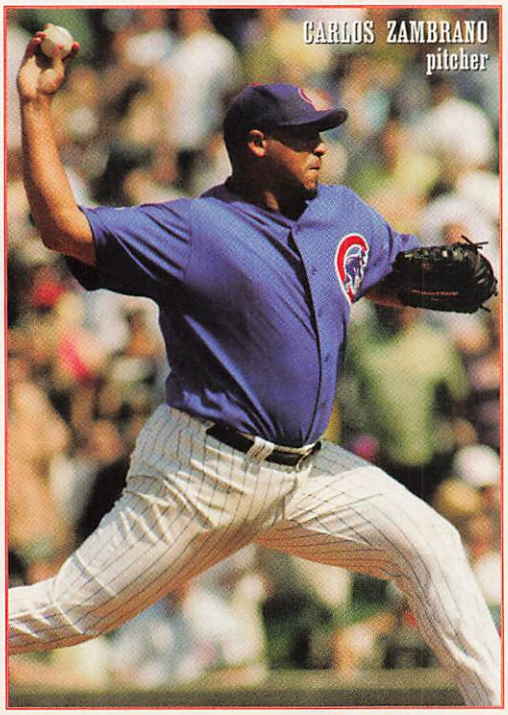
Critics say the Cubs have spent money foolishly, but general manager Jim Hendry disagrees.

"The people we put large investments in are great, great players," Hendry says. "I don't think there is anyone in the world who wouldn't want to have Alfonso on the team or Aramis."

There will be big money and big expectations for a team that hasn't won a World Series in 98 straight seasons.

Rotation Carlos Zambrano is a proven ace. But after that, the Cubs' rotation is full of question marks. Ted Lilly (four years, $40 million) is coming off one of the best seasons of his career with Toronto but has a 59–58 lifetime mark. Jason Marquis (three years, $21 million) was 14–16 with a 6.02 ERA for St. Louis last year and hopes that pitching coach Larry Rothschild could help him reverse that trend. Left-handed youngster Rich Hill showed signs of brilliance in August and September, but he hasn't yet pitched a full season in the majors. And the No. 5 pitcher could either be sore-shouldered Mark Prior or sore-shouldered Wade Miller. Youngsters who picked up valuable playing time such as Sean Marshall and Juan Mateo could also vie for the final spot or be on call if the Cubs suffer the vast injury problems they've encountered over the past three seasons.

Bullpen Ryan Dempster will get the first shot at closer despite the fact that he went 1–9, blew nine save opportunities and did not record a save after Aug. 14. Kerry Wood heads to the bullpen after enduring numerous arm injuries the past three campaigns, and fans are thirsting for the fireballer to get a shot at closing. But the Cubs will have to see how much his arm can withstand before making that type of switch. Lefthander Scott Eyre (3.38 ERA in 2006) and righthander Bob Howry (3.17) will return as the main setup men. If Dempster falters and Wood doesn't appear to be ready to close, Howry could be in line to take over.



Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

Middle Infield Cesar Izturis had hamstring injuries in 2006 and didn't show Cubs fans very much after he was acquired for Greg Maddux on July 31. But he is billed as one of the top defensive shortstops in the game, and he has a Gold Glove Award to prove it. Second baseman Mark DeRosa hasn't had consistent work at a single position in his career, but the Cubs feel he can be their regular second baseman for the next three years.

Corners Ramirez was criticized for his lack of hustle on some plays both on offense and defense and for his struggles in April and May after first baseman Derrek Lee broke his right wrist. But Ramirez finished the season hitting .291 with a career high in homers (38) and RBIs (119). While he can't seem to carry a team at this

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

RF Alfonso Soriano
46 HRs, 41 SBs last year; could move down if there are injuries.

2B Mark DeRosa
.357 OBP last year; he's better for this slot than Cesar Izturis.

1B Derrek Lee
Hopes he can bounce back from first serious injury of his career.

3B Aramis Ramirez
Needs to shake his history of poor April and May performances.

CF Jacque Jones
Putting him in center could be an adventure.

C Michael Barrett
If recovered from injury, will be one of game's top hitting catchers.

LF Matt Murton
Smart hitter with power has promise; could end up platooning.

SS Cesar Izturis
Piniella thinks he can hit second but .295 career OBP is a concern.

BENCH

IF Ryan Theriot
Solid defensive player out to prove that .328 average is no fluke.

C Henry Blanco
Defensive wizard whose hitting is getting better could be a key.

RF-1B Daryle Ward
Solid insurance in case Lee's wrist is not fully healed.

OF Angel Pagan
Switch hitter batted .311 at Wrigley Field in his rookie campaign.

IF Ronny Cedeno
Will fight to make one of the final roster spots in spring training.

ROTATION

RHP Carlos Zambrano
Usually good for 14-16 wins, 210 innings and 200 or more Ks.

LHP Ted Lilly
Cubs are banking on a breakout season.

RHP Jason Marquis
Worked with pitching coach Larry Rothschild during offseason.

LHP Rich Hill
Was 6–3 with a 2.93 ERA in his final 13 appearances last year.

RHP Mark Prior or RHP Wade Miller
Sore-shouldered hurlers are frontrunners in battle for final slot.

BULLPEN

RHP Ryan Dempster
Cubs brass is confident he has the makeup to bounce back.

RHP Kerry Wood
Oft-injured flamethrower will try his luck in the pen.

RHP Bob Howry
Cubs hope strain of 84 appearances will not affect his arm.

LHP Scott Eyre
Struck out 73 batters in 61.1 IP as main southpaw setup man.

LHP Neal Cotts
Will battle LHP Will Ohman for one of the final spots.

RHP Michael Wuertz
2.66 ERA in 41 games; will battle RHP Roberto Novoa for spot.

point in his career, he can become a great complement to a club with a strong lineup. Lee had never been on the disabled list in his major league career until he broke the wrist on April 19 on a basepath collision with Rafael Furcal and was limited to 50 games. His 2005 breakout season (.335 with 46 homers and 107 RBIs) showed he could be one of the best hitters in the game, but he hopes to be fully recovered before expecting another season like that one.

Outfield This area is in a state of flux. Soriano, who can hit 40 homers and steal 40 bases and played left field for Washington last season, won't play center according to Piniella, and the Cubs are set in left. The Cubs could move Soriano to right and place Jacque Jones in center. But there is also a chance Jones, who reportedly requested a trade after 2006 season, could be dealt, which would open the door for top position prospect Felix Pie to make his major league debut in center. The Cubs are satisfied with Matt Murton (.297, 13 homers, 62 RBIs in 2006) in left field, although they were considering bringing in a left-handed hitter to platoon with him.

Catching Michael Barrett hit .307 with a career-high tying 16 homers before getting hit in the cup with a foul ball on Sept. 2 and missing the rest of the season with an intrascrotal hematoma. The Cubs are crossing their fingers there will be no lingering effects in 2007. But as insurance, they re-signed backup Henry Blanco to a two-year deal. The 35-year-old Blanco is a .225 career hitter, but he hit .266 and tied a career high with 37 RBIs in 2006. He is one of the top defensive backstops in the game and has thrown out 41 percent of would-be basestealers in his career.

Bench Infielder Ryan Theriot hit .328 in 53 games last year and has a great shot at making the club as a backup shortstop and second baseman in 2007. Left-handed-hitting Daryle Ward hit .308 last year with Washington and figures to be a top backup right fielder and first baseman. Outfielder Angel Pagan can play all three outfield positions and is a dependable hitter. One of the storylines to watch is whether 2006 Opening Day shortstop Ronny Cedeno (who played 151 games) will have a strong enough spring training to stay with the club this year.

Management Interim Cubs president John McDonough demanded in his first press conference that the Cubs win a World Series. With the money the bosses let Hendry dole out so far, they mean business. When Piniella was hired, Cubs fans were happy with the fact that he has a reputation of being fiery, and they were bombarded with television highlights of him yelling at umpires and throwing bases. But the seasoned veteran may not live up to that reputation. "Look, I'm not proud of those things," Piniella said. "I take pride in the fact that I won over 1,500 games as a major league manager ... hopefully at 63, I won't have that kind of fun on the field anymore."

Final Analysis With the National League Central seemingly void of a powerhouse, the Cubs hope the numerous moves they made in the offseason will translate into a postseason appearance. The Cubs made the splashiest moves of any of the Central Division teams, but they also had the biggest climb to make.

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Alfonso Soriano
High-Dividend Hurler: Carlos Zambrano
Buy Recommendation: Rich Hill
Sell Recommendation: Mark DeRosa
Medical (In)Securities: Mark Prior
IPO: OF Felix Pie
Futures Market: SS Eric Patterson
Insider Tip: The bullpen will cost Cubs starters a bunch of wins.

STATLINE

Lowest Fielding Percentage, Last 5 Years

1. **Aramis Ramirez**.....**949**
2. Troy Glaus 950
3. Aaron Boone.....951
4. Tony Batista 956
5. Bill Mueller 956

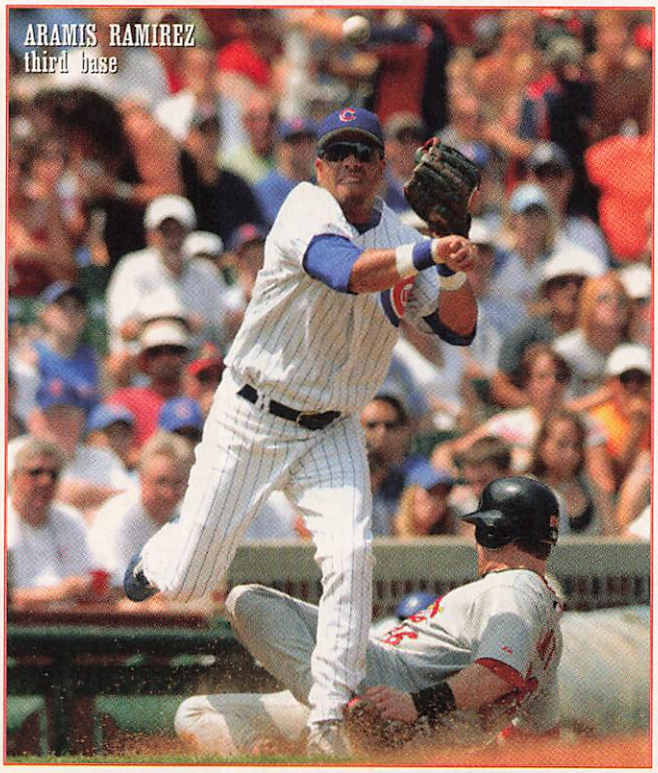
(minimum 500 games; all positions)

STATISTICIAN

98 Consecutive seasons the Cubs have failed to win a World Series.
1 Returning members of the coaching staff from the Dusty Baker era — pitching coach Larry Rothschild. Rothschild was also the lone holdover from the Don Baylor era.
0 Number of times the Cubs beat San Diego in seven meetings in 2006 — the first time in team history they were blanked by a National League team in seven or more meetings in a season.
4 Seasons in a row Derrek Lee homered on Sept. 6 — his birthday.
6 Errors committed in a Sept. 12 win against the Los Angeles Dodgers, the first time the Cubs had that many errors since June 14, 1982.
8 Home runs allowed by Cubs pitchers in a game; that record number occurred twice in 2006.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

He signed the richest deal in Cubs history (eight years, $136 million), and **Alfonso Soriano** brings in a rare combination of speed and power that could have a huge impact and a ripple effect on the rest of the lineup. Since the heart of the lineup is solid but not great, the Cubs could probably use a guy who can hit 40 homers in the third, fourth or fifth slot to complement Derrek Lee and Aramis Ramirez. But since he can steal 40 bases, the Cubs are going to keep him at the spot where he is most comfortable — leadoff.



Scott Rovak/US Presswire; Colvin: Paul Jasienski

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS In a story that will go down in Winter Meetings history, Cubs general manager Jim Hendry agreed to terms with pitcher Ted Lilly while Hendry was hooked up to an EKG machine in an Orlando hospital on Dec. 6. Later that night Hendry had an angioplasty performed.

BUSH LEAGUE On Dec. 21 the Cubs promoted Randy Bush to the newly created assistant to Hendry. The Cubs insist this move was in the works since early October and had nothing to do with Hendry's health scare at the Winter Meetings.

SHOOT FIRST When Hendry (now 51) was six years old he first saw Lou Piniella play high school basketball in Florida. Last October he hired Piniella as the Cubs manager. Hendry said Piniella was a star on the hardwood and averaged 30 points per game. Piniella said: "I was the designated shooter. Thou shalt not pass."

CUB NATION SHRINKING While the announced home attendance was more than 3 million for the third year in a row, there were an astounding number of no-shows in August and September for the last-place Cubs. Also, television viewership went down to the point where their ratings were lower than the White Sox for the first time in more than two decades.

RYNO'S THE BOSS Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg has his eyes on managing at the big-league level and took the first step when he accepted the job as skipper of Class-A Peoria. The legend had not been involved on the minor league level since 1981. But he says he is looking forward to some of the long bus rides. "A lot of people have to pay money to ride the bus and I get to do it for free. … It's a part of the fun," Sandberg says.

THE FARM SYSTEM

2006 Top Draft Pick

Baseball America ranked outfielder **Tyler Colvin** as the 170th-best prospect in the draft, so the Cubs raised a few eyebrows when they took him in the first round and 13th overall. The left-handed hitter vindicated the Cubs when he hit 11 homers, drove in 53 runs and stole 12 bases in 64 games for Class-A Boise, earning an invitation to spring training. He enjoyed one stretch in which he hit six homers and drove in 14 runs in five games. Ironically, *Baseball America* voted him the Northwest Player of the Year.

Prospects

OF Felix Pie His chances of making his Cubs debut hinge on what type of spring training he has this year.

2B Eric Patterson For the second year in a row, named the team's top position prospect; will likely start at Triple-A Iowa.

3B Scott Moore Made it to the majors in '06 but with Aramis Ramirez's long contract, his future is uncertain.

C Jake Fox Red-hot (.313, 16 homers, 61 RBIs) in 66 games with Class-A Daytona before promotion to Double-A.

RHP Sean Gallagher 171 strikeouts in 28 appearances on Class A and Double-A levels last year.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Lou Piniella **COACHES:** Ivan DeJesus, Gerald Perry, Mike Quade, Larry Rothschild, Matt Sinatro, Lester Strode, Alan Trammell

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
57	Rocky Cherry	R-R	8/19/79	Iowa (AAA)	1-0	10.13	2	0	2.2	2
				West Tenn (AA)	4-1	2.22	31	2	48.2	50
48	Neal Cotts	L-L	3/25/80	**CHICAGO AL**	**1-2**	**5.17**	**70**	**1**	**54.0**	**43**
46	Ryan Dempster	R-R	5/3/77	**CHICAGO NL**	**1-9**	**4.80**	**74**	**24**	**75.0**	**67**
47	Scott Eyre	L-L	5/30/72	**CHICAGO NL**	**1-3**	**3.38**	**74**	**0**	**61.1**	**73**
37	Angel Guzman	R-R	12/14/81	Iowa (AAA)	4-4	4.04	15	0	75.2	77
				CHICAGO NL	**0-6**	**7.39**	**15**	**0**	**56.0**	**60**
53	Rich Hill	L-L	3/11/80	Iowa (AAA)	7-1	1.80	15	0	100.0	135
				CHICAGO NL	**6-7**	**4.17**	**17**	**0**	**99.1**	**90**
62	Bob Howry	L-R	8/4/73	**CHICAGO NL**	**4-5**	**3.17**	**84**	**5**	**76.2**	**71**
30	Ted Lilly	L-L	1/4/76	**TORONTO**	**15-13**	**4.31**	**32**	**0**	**181.2**	**160**
49	Carlos Marmol	R-R	10/14/82	**CHICAGO NL**	**5-7**	**6.08**	**19**	**0**	**77.0**	**59**
				Iowa (AAA)	0-0	9.00	2	0	3.0	1
				West Tenn (AA)	3-2	2.33	11	0	58.0	67
	Jason Marquis	L-R	8/21/78	**ST. LOUIS**	**14-16**	**6.02**	**33**	**0**	**194.1**	**96**
45	Sean Marshall	L-L	8/30/82	**CHICAGO NL**	**6-9**	**5.59**	**24**	**0**	**125.2**	**77**
				Iowa (AAA)	0-2	3.32	4	0	21.2	21
51	Juan Mateo	R-R	12/17/82	**CHICAGO NL**	**1-3**	**5.32**	**11**	**0**	**45.2**	**35**
				West Tenn (AA)	7-4	2.82	18	0	92.2	70
52	Wade Miller	R-R	9/13/76	**CHICAGO NL**	**0-2**	**4.57**	**5**	**0**	**21.2**	**20**
				Iowa (AAA)	1-0	6.55	2	0	11.0	9
				West Tenn (AA)	1-0	1.50	1	0	6.0	4
				Peoria (A)	0-0	2.50	5	0	18.0	15
44	Roberto Novoa	R-R	8/15/79	**CHICAGO NL**	**2-1**	**4.26**	**66**	**0**	**76.0**	**53**
				Iowa (AAA)	1-0	2.70	4	1	6.2	3
13	Will Ohman	L-L	8/13/77	**CHICAGO NL**	**1-1**	**4.13**	**78**	**0**	**65.1**	**74**
22	Mark Prior	R-R	9/7/80	**CHICAGO NL**	**1-6**	**7.21**	**9**	**0**	**43.2**	**38**
				Iowa (AAA)	0-0	0.00	1	0	6.2	10
				West Tenn (AA)	1-0	5.40	1	0	5.0	4
				Peoria (A)	0-2	3.86	2	0	7.0	8
55	Clayton Rapada	R-L	3/9/81	Iowa (AAA)	3-2	3.04	28	0	23.2	21
				West Tenn (AA)	3-2	0.82	33	21	43.2	45
33	Glendon Rusch	L-L	11/7/74	**CHICAGO NL**	**3-8**	**7.46**	**25**	**0**	**66.1**	**59**
				Iowa (AAA)	0-0	2.25	1	0	4.0	2
20	Jae Kuk Ryu	R-R	5/30/83	**CHICAGO NL**	**0-1**	**8.40**	**10**	**0**	**15.0**	**17**
				Iowa (AAA)	8-8	3.23	24	0	139.1	114
34	Kerry Wood	R-R	6/16/77	**CHICAGO NL**	**1-2**	**4.12**	**4**	**0**	**19.2**	**13**
				Iowa (AAA)	0-1	1.80	1	0	5.0	3
				Peoria (A)	0-0	0.00	1	0	5.0	12
43	Michael Wuertz	R-R	12/15/78	**CHICAGO NL**	**3-1**	**2.66**	**41**	**0**	**40.2**	**42**
				Iowa (AAA)	6-0	1.73	30	10	41.2	67
38	Carlos Zambrano	S-R	6/1/81	**CHICAGO NL**	**16-7**	**3.41**	**33**	**0**	**214.0**	**210**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
8	Michael Barrett	R-R	10/22/76	**CHICAGO NL**	**.307**	**107**	**375**	**54**	**16**	**53**	**0**
24	Henry Blanco	R-R	8/29/71	**CHICAGO NL**	**.266**	**74**	**241**	**23**	**6**	**37**	**0**
58	Geovany Soto	R-R	1/20/83	**CHICAGO NL**	**.200**	**11**	**25**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**0**
				Iowa (AAA)	.272	108	342	34	6	38	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
5	Ronny Cedeno	R-R	2/2/83	**CHICAGO NL**	**.245**	**151**	**534**	**51**	**6**	**41**	**8**
7	Mark DeRosa	R-R	2/26/75	**TEXAS**	**.296**	**136**	**520**	**78**	**13**	**74**	**4**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	.500	3	12	2	0	0	0
56	Brian Dopirak	R-R	12/20/83	West Tenn (AA)	.257	52	179	16	1	23	0
3	Cesar Izturis	S-R	2/10/80	**CHICAGO NL**	**.233**	**22**	**73**	**4**	**0**	**6**	**0**
				LOS ANGELES NL	**.252**	**32**	**119**	**10**	**1**	**12**	**1**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	.271	15	59	9	0	3	0
25	Derrek Lee	R-R	9/6/75	**CHICAGO NL**	**.286**	**50**	**175**	**30**	**8**	**30**	**8**
				Iowa (AAA)	.250	1	4	0	0	1	0
15	Scott Moore	L-R	11/17/83	**CHICAGO NL**	**.263**	**16**	**38**	**6**	**2**	**5**	**0**
				Iowa (AAA)	.250	1	4	1	0	0	0
				West Tenn (AA)	.276	132	463	52	22	75	12
16	Aramis Ramirez	R-R	6/25/78	**CHICAGO NL**	**.291**	**157**	**594**	**93**	**38**	**119**	**2**
2	Ryan Theriot	R-R	12/7/79	**CHICAGO NL**	**.328**	**53**	**134**	**34**	**3**	**16**	**13**
				Iowa (AAA)	.304	73	280	41	0	22	14

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
27	Buck Coats	L-R	6/9/82	**CHICAGO NL**	**.167**	**18**	**18**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**0**
				Iowa (AAA)	.282	124	450	60	7	51	17
11	Jacque Jones	L-L	4/25/75	**CHICAGO NL**	**.285**	**149**	**533**	**73**	**27**	**81**	**9**
19	Matt Murton	R-R	10/3/81	**CHICAGO NL**	**.297**	**144**	**455**	**70**	**13**	**62**	**5**
29	Angel Pagan	S-R	7/2/81	**CHICAGO NL**	**.247**	**77**	**170**	**28**	**5**	**18**	**4**
				Iowa (AAA)	.267	4	15	2	0	0	1
				Mesa (R)	.111	3	9	1	0	0	1
17	Felix Pie	L-L	2/8/85	Iowa (AAA)	.283	141	559	78	15	57	17
12	Alfonso Soriano	R-R	1/7/76	**WASHINGTON**	**.277**	**159**	**647**	**119**	**46**	**95**	**41**
32	Daryle Ward	L-L	6/27/75	**WASHINGTON**	**.308**	**78**	**104**	**15**	**6**	**19**	**0**
				ATLANTA	**.308**	**20**	**26**	**2**	**1**	**7**	**0**

Cincinnati Reds

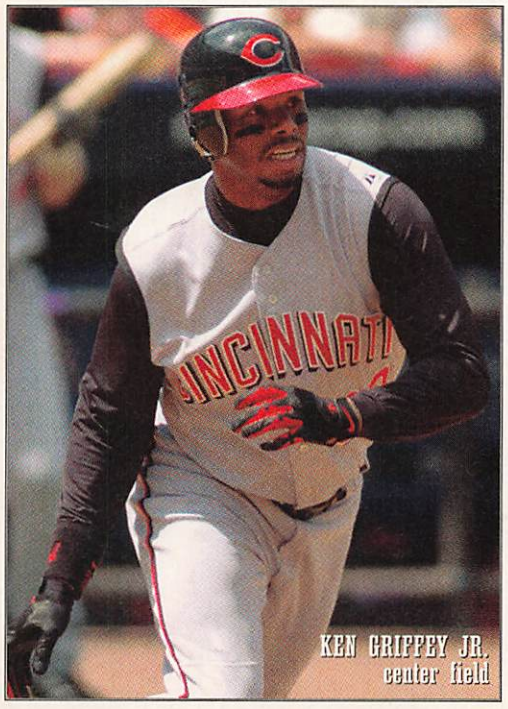
2007 Prediction: 5th

2006 Finish: 80–82

NL Central

The Reds stunned everyone by remaining in playoff contention into the final weekend of last season, but they remain a flawed team. Normally active GM Wayne Krivsky mostly sat out the winter spending frenzy that dominated his first full offseason in charge. That decision may prove prescient in a couple of years when other teams are saddled with bad contracts, but the flip side is the Reds don't appear to have done much to improve themselves, while division rivals have spent big.

Rotation Thanks in large part to the spring training acquisition of Bronson Arroyo, the Reds' starting pitchers exceeded expectations in '06. The rotation lowered its collective ERA by over half of a run per game and was particularly strong down the stretch. In Arroyo and Aaron Harang, the Reds have one of the most durable one-two combos atop any rotation; they just need help. Eric Milton will attempt to return to form after a pair of surgeries truncated a season that showed definite signs of improvement over his dreadful 2005. Midseason acquisition Kyle Lohse can blow hitters away as well as anyone on any given night, but the Reds would like to see those nights come more often. The fifth spot will go to potential over track record, as someone out of the group of Matt Belisle, Elizardo Ramirez, Bobby Livingston and Phil Dumatrait likely will win the job in spring training. All eyes will be on Triple-A Louisville, where top prospect Homer Bailey will continue to push for a promotion.


KEN GRIFFEY JR.
center field

Bullpen For the third straight season, the Reds will enter spring training without a defined closer, but they still feel good about their mix of experience and potential. David Weathers and Mike Stanton will hold down the end of games, sharing ninth-inning duties based on matchups. Veteran Rheal Cormier is back as a lefty specialist, but much of the burden in the middle innings will fall to a number of talented younger arms. The centerpieces of last summer's trade with Washington, Gary Majewski and Bill Bray, should settle into important roles in 2007. It wouldn't be a surprise to see Bray pitch late in games, as he has proven effective against both left-handed and right-handed batters. Todd Coffey isn't getting much buzz as a future closer anymore, but manager Jerry Narron trusts him to work out of a mid-inning jam.

Middle Infield This pairing is completely different from spring training 2006. Second baseman Brandon Phillips and new shortstop Alex Gonzalez are known for their defense — quite the opposite of last year's expected pairing of Felipe Lopez and Rich Aurilia. The Reds know they can't expect as much offensive production out of these spots, though Phillips contributed more than his share with the bat last season, but they'll make that sacrifice in an effort to help their pitching staff. That's the goal behind putting two gifted defenders up the middle — saving outs and keeping starting pitchers in the game longer.

Corners First base is traditionally a power position, but the Reds have learned how to do without a big stick there. Scott Hatteberg is back after agreeing to a contract extension last season, and the Reds will lean on him for selectivity at the plate and his ability to put the ball in play. The right-handed half of the first base platoon, Jeff Conine, is a similar player. Edwin Encarnacion will man third base after a solid 2006. His bat will be fine, but his defense figures to improve working alongside Gonzalez, whom the Reds view as a role model when it comes to work ethic. Gonzalez should also get to more balls in the hole than his predecessors, easing the burden on Encarnacion. When the Reds have late leads, slick-fielding Juan Castro will often replace Encarnacion.

Outfield Adam Dunn and Ken Griffey Jr. will hold down the middle of the batting order again, but the big question is where Griffey will play. The Reds approached him in the fall about moving to right field to ease the pounding on his body, and both parties agreed to see how things played out in spring training. The broken left hand Griffey suffered in December might limit him in spring training, but he'll be ready by April. Wherever Griffey ends up, Ryan Freel will get the majority of playing time in the other spot. Freel covers ample ground in center and has plenty of arm for right, leading the team with 12 outfield assists last year. Freel gets worn down when he plays every day for extended stretches, so expect to see some combination of Norris Hopper, Chris Denorfia, Bubba Crosby and Josh Hamilton in the lineup occasionally.

Catching Jason LaRue lost his grip on the starting job with a woeful 2006 and was traded after the season. A breakout year by low-profile acquisition David Ross helped make LaRue expendable, and the former Dodger will have a chance to prove his worth over the long haul.

STATLINE

Lowest On-Base Percentage, Active Players

1. **Juan Castro** ..... **.272**
2. Pedro Feliz ..... .288
3. Henry Blanco ..... .290
4. Tomas Perez ..... .291
5. **Alex Gonzalez** ..... **.292**

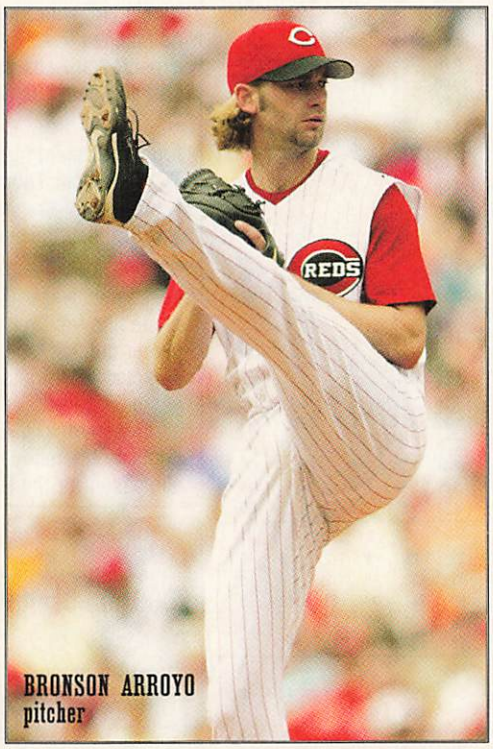
(minimum 2,000 PAs)

The Reds have a couple alternatives behind Ross in Javier Valentin and Chad Moeller. Valentin was more of a pinch-hitting specialist last season, but he does a solid job behind the plate. The veteran Moeller is known for his ability to handle pitchers and call games.

Bench The Reds led the NL with a club-record 13 pinch-hit home runs last season, but it's hard to find much pop on their bench for 2007 beyond Valentin, who had four of those bombs. Conine will get the key late-game at-bats against lefties when he isn't starting, but he'll have to get used to pinch-hitting again after some time in the AL. Extra outfielders Hopper and Denorfia are contact hitters, and Castro will be used far more for his glove than his bat.

Management A strong start in 2006 earned a bit more job security for Narron and Krivsky, as new owner Bob Castellini extended Narron's contract through 2008 and exercised Krivsky's option for the same year. Castellini is clearly more willing to spend money than his predecessors, but the Reds didn't do so recklessly during the winter. That puts the onus on Krivsky to continue unearthing steals like Arroyo, Phillips and Ross as the Reds attempt to keep up with the higher-payroll Cardinals, Cubs and Astros. On the field, expect more of the pitching-and-defense approach favored by Krivsky and Narron, with a turn toward manufacturing (and preventing) runs and away from waiting for (and surrendering) the three-run homer.

Final Analysis There's more stability now, but the Reds are still searching for an identity. Pitching had been the missing link, but once the Reds finally found some in 2006, their offense collapsed. Rather than addressing that deficiency, the Reds opted for defense in adding Gonzalez. The Reds have components of a contending team, with a couple of high-impact hitters in Dunn and Griffey, exciting young talent in Phillips and Encarnacion and workhorse starters in Arroyo and Harang. There just doesn't seem to be enough there to overcome everything the Reds lack.



BRONSON ARROYO
pitcher

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Adam Dunn
High-Dividend Hurler: Aaron Harang
Buy Recommendation: Edwin Encarnacion
Sell Recommendation: Ken Griffey Jr.
Medical (In)Securities: Ken Griffey Jr.
IPO: RHP Homer Bailey
Futures Market: OF Jay Bruce
Insider Tip: No Reds closer will top 15 saves — again.

STATISTICIAN

36 Players acquired by GM Wayne Krivsky from the day he was hired, Feb. 8, through the end of the season. Of that group, 24 made at least one appearance for the Reds in 2006.
475 Innings pitched by Bronson Arroyo (240.2) and Aaron Harang (234.1) last year, making them the first pair of Reds righthanders since 1965 to top 230 innings each.
140 Different lineups used by manager Jerry Narron, the third-most in the majors.
0 Games the Reds have played at Seattle in their history. That will change during an interleague series at Safeco Field this June 22-24.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Manager Jerry Narron did his best to keep the pressure off **Edwin Encarnacion** heading into 2006. There will be no avoiding the responsibility this year. Encarnacion will have to supply right-handed power between Ken Griffey Jr. and Adam Dunn in the batting order, and he'll have to play adequate enough defense to remain in the lineup. At age 24, there's plenty of room for improvement in Encarnacion's all-around game, but the emphasis this year will be on production rather than development. The Reds are confident that Encarnacion can handle it, and the first step is breaking out of the boom-or-bust cycle he rode last season.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

RF Ryan Freel
Wherever he plays, Reds' sparkplug is team's only speed threat.

1B Scott Hatteberg
Excellent contact hitter in a lineup full of strikeout artists.

CF Ken Griffey Jr.
Priority is finding a way to keep him healthy and in the lineup.

3B Edwin Encarnacion
Will have to contribute as a run-producer.

LF Adam Dunn
Hoping for a bounce-back year after production dropped.

C David Ross
Pleasant surprise of 2006 should get bulk of time behind plate.

2B Brandon Phillips
Finally realized potential with trade to Reds last season.

SS Alex Gonzalez
Offseason acquisition being counted on to shore up defense.

BENCH

C Javier Valentin
Starts diminished last season; Reds' most dangerous pinch-hitter.

1B/OF Jeff Conine
Professional hitter will get plenty of starting opportunities.

INF Juan Castro
Outstanding gloveman will back up at all four infield positions.

OF Norris Hopper
Not much power, not great in the field, but consistent bat.

OF Josh Hamilton
Fallen prospect will have a chance to realize his potential.

ROTATION

RHP Bronson Arroyo
Should eat up more innings and provide some star quality.

RHP Aaron Harang
Nothing flashy, but improving every year.

LHP Eric Milton
Has one last chance to prove he can be relied upon.

RHP Kyle Lohse
Consistency is key; has great stuff but can't always harness it.

RHP Matt Belisle
After two years in bullpen, will get a shot to hold rotation spot.

BULLPEN

RHP David Weathers
Not a closer, but led Reds in saves last two seasons.

LHP Mike Stanton
Well-traveled lefty will form other half of late-game tandem.

RHP Todd Coffey
Go-to man with runners on base in late innings; throws strikes.

LHP Bill Bray
Potential closer of the future has great stuff.

LHP Rheal Cormier
Will get first call for situational duty against left-handed hitters.

RHP Gary Majewski
If healthy and in '05 form, could be key man in relief corps.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Jerry Narron **COACHES:** Mark Berry, Brook Jacoby, Bucky Dent, Dick Pole, Billy Hatcher, Mike Stefanski, Tom Hume

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
61	Bronson Arroyo	R-R	2/24/77	**CINCINNATI**	**14-11**	**3.29**	**35**	**0**	**240.2**	**184**
31	Matt Belisle	R-R	6/6/80	**CINCINNATI**	**2-0**	**3.60**	**30**	**0**	**40.0**	**26**
				Louisville (AAA)	1-0	0.00	8	0	9.0	9
				Chattanooga (AA)	0-0	0.00	2	0	3.1	4
				Dayton (A)	1-0	0.00	2	1	4.0	3
45	Bill Bray	L-L	6/5/83	**CINCINNATI**	**2-1**	**4.23**	**29**	**2**	**27.2**	**23**
				WASHINGTON	**1-1**	**3.91**	**19**	**0**	**23.0**	**16**
				New Orleans (AAA)	4-1	3.98	21	5	31.2	45
51	Jared Burton	R-R	6/2/81	Midland (AA)	6-5	4.14	53	1	74.0	66
56	Todd Coffey	R-R	9/9/80	**CINCINNATI**	**6-7**	**3.58**	**81**	**8**	**78.0**	**60**
36	Rheal Cormier	L-L	4/23/67	**CINCINNATI**	**0-1**	**4.50**	**21**	**0**	**14.0**	**6**
				PHILADELPHIA	**2-2**	**1.59**	**43**	**0**	**34.0**	**13**
65	Jon Coutlangus	L-L	10/21/80	Louisville (AAA)	0-0	0.00	2	0	2.2	2
				Chattanooga (AA)	1-3	2.86	49	9	63.0	56
66	Phillip Dumatrait	R-L	7/12/81	Louisville (AAA)	5-7	4.72	16	0	87.2	58
				Chattanooga (AA)	3-4	3.62	10	0	49.2	45
39	Aaron Harang	R-R	5/9/78	**CINCINNATI**	**16-11**	**3.76**	**36**	**0**	**234.1**	**216**
	Bobby Livingston	L-L	9/3/82	**SEATTLE**	**0-0**	**18.00**	**3**	**0**	**5.0**	**3**
				Tacoma (AAA)	8-11	4.59	23	0	135.1	69
28	Kyle Lohse	R-R	10/4/78	**CINCINNATI**	**3-5**	**4.57**	**12**	**0**	**63.0**	**51**
				MINNESOTA	**2-5**	**7.07**	**22**	**0**	**63.2**	**46**
				Rochester (AAA)	2-1	1.50	4	0	24.0	12
38	Gary Majewski	R-R	2/26/80	**CINCINNATI**	**1-2**	**8.40**	**19**	**0**	**15.0**	**9**
				Louisville (AAA)	0-0	0.00	4	0	3.2	3
				WASHINGTON	**3-2**	**3.58**	**46**	**0**	**55.1**	**34**
58	Calvin Medlock	R-R	11/8/82	Chattanooga (AA)	7-2	2.97	42	2	63.2	70
22	Eric Milton	L-L	8/4/75	**CINCINNATI**	**8-8**	**5.19**	**26**	**0**	**152.2**	**90**
54	Elizardo Ramirez	S-R	1/28/83	**CINCINNATI**	**4-9**	**5.37**	**21**	**0**	**104.0**	**69**
				Louisville (AAA)	0-1	4.05	4	0	20.0	19
				Dayton (A)	0-0	4.50	1	0	6.0	3
53	Brad Salmon	L-R	1/3/80	Louisville (AAA)	5-1	2.34	39	3	57.2	72
				Chattanooga (AA)	2-1	2.70	16	2	23.1	24
37	Brian Shackelford	L-L	8/30/76	**CINCINNATI**	**1-0**	**7.16**	**26**	**0**	**16.1**	**15**
				Louisville (AAA)	1-0	1.82	34	1	29.2	23
59	David Shafer	R-R	3/7/82	Chattanooga (AA)	1-2	2.36	44	26	49.2	52
29	Mike Stanton	L-L	6/2/67	**WASHINGTON**	**3-5**	**4.47**	**56**	**0**	**44.1**	**30**
				SAN FRANCISCO	**4-2**	**3.09**	**26**	**8**	**23.1**	**18**
25	David Weathers	R-R	9/25/69	**CINCINNATI**	**4-4**	**3.54**	**67**	**12**	**73.2**	**50**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
23	Chad Moeller	R-R	2/18/75	**MILWAUKEE**	**.184**	**29**	**98**	**9**	**2**	**5**	**0**
				Nashville (AAA)	.220	41	132	10	2	18	0
26	David Ross	R-R	3/19/77	**CINCINNATI**	**.255**	**90**	**247**	**37**	**21**	**52**	**0**
				Chattanooga (AA)	.333	2	6	0	0	2	0
17	Javier Valentin	S-R	9/19/75	**CINCINNATI**	**.269**	**92**	**186**	**24**	**8**	**27**	**0**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
9	Juan Castro	R-R	6/20/72	**CINCINNATI**	**.284**	**54**	**95**	**8**	**2**	**14**	**0**
				MINNESOTA	**.231**	**50**	**156**	**10**	**1**	**14**	**1**
	Jeff Conine	R-R	6/27/66	**BALTIMORE**	**.265**	**114**	**389**	**43**	**9**	**49**	**3**
				PHILADELPHIA	**.280**	**28**	**100**	**11**	**1**	**17**	**0**
12	Edwin Encarnacion	R-R	1/7/83	**CINCINNATI**	**.276**	**117**	**406**	**60**	**15**	**72**	**6**
				Louisville (AAA)	.306	10	36	6	1	1	0
34	Jerry Gil	R-R	10/14/82	Tucson (AAA)	.128	16	47	6	1	3	1
				Tennessee (AA)	.269	112	446	71	26	86	6
2	Alex Gonzalez	R-R	2/15/77	**BOSTON**	**.255**	**111**	**388**	**48**	**9**	**50**	**1**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	.333	1	3	0	0	0	0
21	Scott Hatteberg	L-R	12/14/69	**CINCINNATI**	**.289**	**141**	**456**	**62**	**13**	**51**	**2**
62	Ray Olmedo	S-R	5/31/81	**CINCINNATI**	**.205**	**30**	**44**	**5**	**1**	**4**	**1**
				Louisville (AAA)	.282	100	383	47	3	29	17
4	Brandon Phillips	R-R	6/28/81	**CINCINNATI**	**.276**	**149**	**536**	**65**	**17**	**75**	**25**
60	Joey Votto	L-R	9/10/83	Chattanooga (AA)	.319	136	508	85	22	77	24

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
16	Bubba Crosby	L-L	8/11/76	**NEW YORK AL**	**.207**	**65**	**87**	**9**	**1**	**6**	**3**
				Columbus (AAA)	.238	22	84	13	2	10	7
				Tampa (A)	.125	3	8	0	0	0	0
19	Chris Denorfia	R-R	7/15/80	**CINCINNATI**	**.283**	**49**	**106**	**14**	**1**	**7**	**1**
				Louisville (AAA)	.349	83	312	46	7	45	15
63	Chris Dickerson	L-L	4/10/82	Chattanooga (AA)	.242	115	389	65	12	48	21
44	Adam Dunn	L-R	11/9/79	**CINCINNATI**	**.234**	**160**	**561**	**99**	**40**	**92**	**7**
6	Ryan Freel	R-R	3/8/76	**CINCINNATI**	**.271**	**132**	**454**	**67**	**8**	**27**	**37**
3	Ken Griffey Jr.	L-L	11/21/69	**CINCINNATI**	**.252**	**109**	**428**	**62**	**27**	**72**	**0**
33	Josh Hamilton	L-L	5/21/81	Hudson Valley (A)	.260	15	50	7	0	5	0
30	Norris Hopper	R-R	3/24/79	**CINCINNATI**	**.359**	**21**	**39**	**6**	**1**	**5**	**2**
				Louisville (AAA)	.347	98	383	47	0	26	25
				Chattanooga (AA)	.283	13	46	7	0	10	3

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

DIFFERENT APPROACH The Reds will have a new hitting and pitching coach this season, as Brook Jacoby replaces Chris Chambliss and Dick Pole steps in for Vern Ruhle. Jacoby has never been a full-time hitting coach in the majors but plans to emphasize situational hitting to a roster that has struggled in that department. Pole, entering his sixth different stint as a big league pitching coach, will lend some stability to that position. Ruhle missed all of 2006 after being diagnosed with cancer and has since moved to a supervisory position in the Reds' farm system.

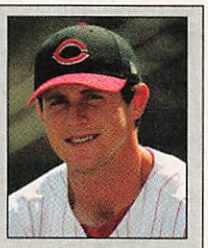
LONG HAUL The November trade that sent catcher Jason LaRue to Kansas City made Ken Griffey Jr. the Reds' longest-tenured player. Griffey arrived before the 2000 season.

CHANGE OF HEART After undergoing Tommy John surgery on his elbow in August, veteran reliever Kent Mercker said he planned to retire. It didn't last long. The Ohio native is expected at Reds spring training to continue his rehabilitation and could be available by midseason.

NEW-LOOK BOOTH The Reds raised the profile of their broadcast team by hiring longtime Diamondbacks and Fox TV announcer Thom Brennaman to join his father, Hall of Famer Marty Brennaman, in the booth. The Reds later added Jeff Brantley to round out their new team.

TAKING A CHANCE Josh Hamilton was the best amateur baseball player in America in 1999, the year Tampa Bay made him the first overall pick in the draft. The outfielder's career quickly took a dark turn, though, as he became addicted to drugs and was barred from baseball for three years. The Reds believe he has turned the corner, and they acquired him in a Rule 5 draft trade. He'll have a chance to continue his recovery but must stay on the big league roster all season for the Reds to keep him.

THE FARM SYSTEM



Paul Jasienski

2006 Top Draft Pick

The book on **Drew Stubbs** is the same after 56 pro games as it was when the Reds took him out of the University of Texas in June — the outfielder has difference-making athletic ability, but will he hit enough to make use of it? Stubbs hit .252 with seven doubles, three triples and six home runs in rookie ball last summer. His team-high 19 stolen bases tell you how explosive he can be, but the team-high 64 strikeouts in 210 at-bats tell you there's plenty of room for improvement. He'll have a few more minor league campaigns to sort everything out.

Prospects

RHP Homer Bailey Not likely to make rotation out of spring training but should make big-league debut this year.
OF Jay Bruce A couple years away but continues to impress — 16 HRs, 81 RBIs, 19 SBs last year in Low-A.
1B Joey Votto Pencil him in as the starting first baseman for '08, probably will reach the majors by the second half of '07.
RHP Johnny Cueto Diminutive Dominican came out of nowhere to post 3.00 ERA and lead farm system with 15 wins.
LHP Travis Wood Not as dominant in 2006 as he was in first pro season, but changeup will keep him on the upswing.

Houston Astros

2007 Prediction: 3rd

2006 Finish: 82–80
NL Central

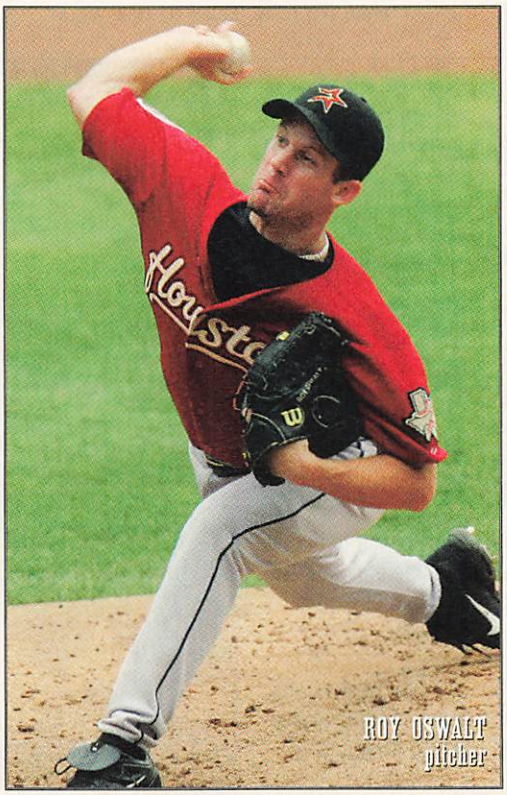
The addition of power hitter Carlos Lee should help solve the Astros' offensive problems and make them a playoff contender. But Houston needs strong performances from new pitchers Jason Jennings and Woody Williams to overcome the loss of Andy Pettitte, and maybe Roger Clemens, and a bounce-back year from third baseman Morgan Ensberg.

Rotation Houston had to make a move after losing Pettitte back to the Yankees in free agency. Jennings, acquired in a trade with Colorado, could be the answer. But did Houston give up too much, trading away starting center fielder Willy Taveras and two potential ready-for-prime-time pitchers in Jason Hirsh and Taylor Buchholz? No. 1 starter Roy Oswalt is a Cy Young candidate. He may have an off-game every once in a while, but he has yet to have an off-year. The Astros took an if-you-can't-beat-him-then-sign-him approach in grabbing free agent Williams, a veteran Astro killer. The last two spots in the rotation are up for grabs among lefthander Wandy Rodriguez and righties Fernando Nieve, Chris Sampson and Matt Albers. Someone better step forward.

Bullpen Dave Wallace has replaced Jim Hickey as pitching coach and will try to bring closer Brad Lidge back to his nearly unhittable form of 2005 when he saved 42 games in 46 opportunities with a 2.29 ERA. Dan Wheeler could be ready to take the job if Lidge can't do it; it's a part Wheeler played at times last season when Lidge struggled. Chad Qualls, a Lidge look-a-like, is another solid reliever. Trever Miller pitched well last season, but he is the only lefthander in the pen unless Wandy Rodriguez falls out of the rotation. Dave Borkowski provides solid innings in long relief. Nieve, Sampson and Albers are candidates for long relief duty. Miguel Asencio, acquired as part of the Jennings deal, will also be in the bullpen mix.

Middle Infield There isn't a better shortstop in the National League than underappreciated Adam Everett. He has range, a quick release and a good arm, making the Astros one of the best double-play teams in the game. Craig Biggio isn't the All-Star second baseman he used to be; his range and arm have surrendered something to age. But he'll never fail to make a play due to a lack of hustle. Chris Burke came up as a second baseman but was needed more in the outfield. He will probably play second base someday if Biggio ever grows old. Veteran Mark Loretta, who signed a one-year deal in January, is a solid option at second should Biggio go down with an injury.

Corners Lance Berkman played the outfield for his first five seasons in Houston, then switched smoothly to first base after Jeff Bagwell couldn't throw anymore. People forget that Berkman played first in college at Rice and last year proved adept at digging balls out of the dirt. Ensberg struggled offensively last year with a shoulder problem but is well above average defensively at third base. Mike Lamb is the perfect team guy, able to play first or third. He hits


ROY OSWALT
pitcher

Jim McIsaac/Getty Images

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

CF Chris Burke
Will get a shot at batting leadoff but needs to walk more often.

2B Craig Biggio
Traditionally a fast starter who is closing in on 3,000 hits.

1B Lance Berkman
One of the league's premier hitters and RBI men.

LF Carlos Lee
Provides a much-needed power bat in middle of the order.

RF Luke Scott
The flop of 2005, he hit .336 with 37 RBIs in 214 ABs in 2006.

3B Morgan Ensberg
Astros hoping he can return to his 2005 All-Star form.

SS Adam Everett
His superb defense makes up for his inconsistent offense.

C Brad Ausmus
A master at working with the staff, but he drove in only 39 runs.

BENCH

OF Orlando Palmeiro
Pinch-hitter deluxe with excellent attitude.

INF Mark Loretta
Has averaged 562 ABs and 78 runs over last four years.

1B/3B Mike Lamb
Adds power from the left side as a starter or pinch-hitter.

UT Eric Bruntlett
Mr. Versatility is capable of playing every position.

OF Jason Lane
Needs to start quickly to atone for poor '06 season at the plate.

C Humberto Quintero
Hitting well in the winter league in Venezuela boosted his stock.

ROTATION

RHP Roy Oswalt
One of the best in the game, with a career record of 98–47.

RHP Jason Jennings
Will pitching at Minute Maid Park help lower his ERA?

RHP Woody Williams
A Houston native who had made a habit of beating the Astros.

RHP Fernando Nieve
Needs to win the job in spring over several other contenders.

LHP Wandy Rodriguez
Being the lone lefthander gives him an edge in winning a job.

BULLPEN

RHP Brad Lidge
Astros need closer to return to dominating form of 2005.

RHP Dan Wheeler
Dependable setup man who could move to the closer role.

RHP Chad Qualls
On the verge of becoming a first-class reliever.

LHP Trever Miller
Lefty will be valuable on a staff lacking southpaws.

RHP Dave Borkowski
Could be the best of the long relievers.

RHP Chris Sampson
A long reliever if he doesn't win a job in the rotation.

for average and power and doesn't complain when he's not in the lineup. Manager Phil Garner insists that Lamb is better defensively than people think.

Outfield The Astros will miss Taveras in center field, where his arm matched his speed. Burke, who never played the outfield until he started in left two years ago, will replace Taveras. His athleticism made it an easy transition to the outfield. But there's a lot more ground to cover in spacious center field at Minute Maid Park. Luke Scott will move from left field to right to make room for Lee, who is better with a bat in his hand than a glove. There isn't much ground to cover in left at Minute Maid, which should help Lee. Jason Lane, who played mostly right field last season, is the fourth outfielder. He has a strong arm (he pitched in college) but not necessarily an accurate one.

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Lance Berkman
High-Dividend Hurler: Roy Oswalt
Buy Recommendation: Chris Burke
Sell Recommendation: Craig Biggio
Medical (In)Securities: Chris Burke
IPO: RHP Matt Albers
Futures Market: OF Hunter Pence
Insider Tip: Brad Lidge will return to elite closer status.

Catching Pitchers continue to praise the work of Brad Ausmus behind the plate — from knowing opposing hitters to calling the right pitches. He turns 38 in mid-April, and it's questionable how long he can continue to catch almost 140 games per year. None of the backups in recent years have shown enough as a hitter or a catcher to even challenge Ausmus for the job. Humberto Quintero and Hector Gimenez will battle for the backup role.

Bench The versatility of several players makes this one of the better benches in baseball. Left-handed hitting Orlando Palmeiro is a quality pinch-hitter who can play all three outfield positions. He's also a valuable guy in the clubhouse. Lamb, another left-handed swinger, hits with power and can play first or third base. He started 84 games last year. Loretta is a proven veteran who can play multiple spots on the infield, and Eric Bruntlett is extremely valuable, able to play every infield and outfield position. Lane provides power but needs to improve his batting average. The Astros treat him like a prime prospect, but he hasn't earned that respect yet. None of the backup catchers have proven they can do much more than give Ausmus a day of rest.

Management Tim Purpura replaced Gerry Hunsicker as general manager at the start of the 2005 season and didn't make any major moves last year, other than signing free agent Preston Wilson. But who can criticize the GM when the team makes its first World Series appearance in history? This year Purpura brought in the bat that the Astros needed so badly in free agent Lee, plus a dependable starter in Williams, another free agent. When the Yankees outbid Houston for Pettitte, Purpura went into action immediately and traded for Jennings. How well that trade works out could be the defining grade on Purpura's report card.

Final Analysis The arrival of Lee should improve Houston's offense dramatically. The Astros need Ensberg to hit like he did in 2005 and Scott to hit the way he did in the second half of 2006. The rotation could be a little shaky after Oswalt. The Astros are counting on Jennings to be more effective in Houston than at hitter-friendly Coors Field in Colorado. After Williams, the Nos. 4 and 5 spots in the rotation are still up for grabs, which is not a good situation. Will Clemens return for one more season, or half season? The Astros should be better than last year, but so will the Cardinals, Brewers and Cubs in the very balanced NL Central.

STATLINE

Highest Career OPS by a Switch-Hitter

1. Lance Berkman	**.983**
2. Mickey Mantle	.977
3. Chipper Jones	.943
4. Bernie Williams	.858
5. Reggie Smith	.855

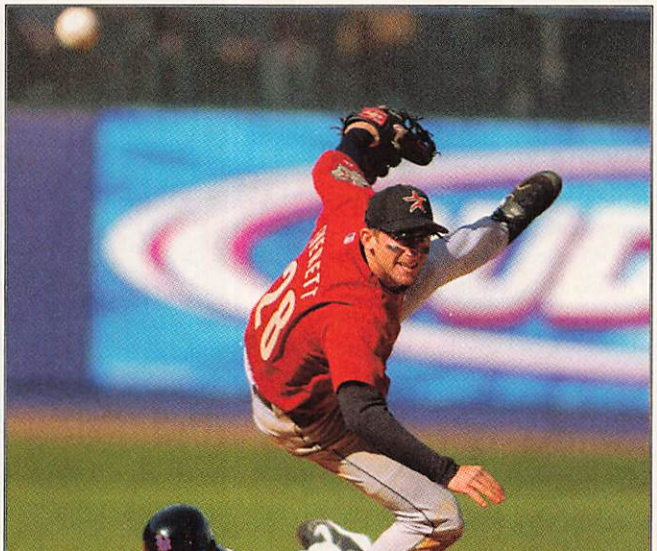
(minimum 3,000 plate appearances)

STATISTICIAN

- **7** Errors by shortstop Adam Everett in 149 games. He didn't win a Gold Glove
- **9** Saves for Dan Wheeler, who temporarily replaced Brad Lidge as Houston's closer last season
- **9–3** Career record vs. Houston at Minute Maid Park for new Astros pitcher Woody Williams
- **11** Stolen bases by Chris Burke, the most by any returning Astro after the trade of Willy Taveras, who had 33, to Colorado
- **41** Craig Biggio's age on Opening Day
- **45** Age of Roger Clemens by the end of the 2007 season
- **70** Number of hits Biggio needs for 3,000

DIFFERENCE MAKER

The Astros have been looking for someone to take advantage of their left field wall, just 315 feet away down the line, and hope they found him in free agent **Carlos Lee**, who signed a six-year contract worth $100 million. Lee has 221 career home runs, including 37 last year combined between Milwaukee and Texas. He has hit more than 30 homers four years in a row. Lee has three 100-plus RBI seasons, with 116 last year. Houston desperately needed another power hitter to protect Lance Berkman, who walked 98 times last season. Plus, Lee struck out only 65 times last year.



ADAM EVERETT
shortstop

Everett: Steve Moore; Miller: Bill Mitchell

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

SURF'S UP Catcher Brad Ausmus relaxes in the offseason by surfing near his home in the San Diego area. Ausmus, who grew up in Connecticut, took up the sport when he played for the Padres and watched other surfers from his backyard. Houston third baseman Morgan Ensberg, who is from Hermosa Beach, Calif., has surfed with Ausmus. "He's not bad for an East Coast boy," said Ensberg.

CLEMENS' CUP HALF FULL The Astros were happy that Roger Clemens pitched only half a season in 2006, allowing him to be effective all the way through September, unlike the previous season when he battled injuries late in the year. Lack of run support tarnished his record again (7–6), but he pitched brilliantly as ever with a 2.30 ERA and 102 strikeouts in 113.1 innings. The Astros would love to get another half year like that out of the Rocket.

BYE-BYE BAGGY To no one's surprise, Jeff Bagwell officially announced his retirement in mid-December after missing all of 2006 with a bad right shoulder. He will remain with the club on a personal services contract, mainly working with young hitters. Bagwell, who played his entire career in the majors with the Astros, said he had no interest in going to the American League to become a designated hitter. "I wanted to remain an Astro," he said, despite needing only 51 more homers to reach 500. "That's not what's important to me. What's important is playing here. I don't want to be average or below. I don't want to embarrass myself."

BACKE NOT BACK Righthander Brandon Backe, 10–8 for the Astros in 2005, would have been the No. 3 or 4 starter, but underwent elbow surgery Sept. 7. He is expected to miss the entire season.

THE FARM SYSTEM

2006 Top Draft Pick

The Astros chose catcher **Max Sapp** out of Bishop Moore High School in Windermere, Fla. with the 23rd pick overall. The 6'2", 220-pound Sapp was the first high school player taken in the first round by Houston since 1995 and their first catcher taken in the first round since '94. The switch-hitting Sapp batted .591 as a senior in high school with nine homers and drove in 48 runs, helping his team to a 29–2 record. He reported directly to Low A ball last summer, playing for the Tri-Valley Cats in Troy, N.Y. where he hit .229 in 50 games with one homer and 20 RBI.

Prospects

OF Hunter Pence Top prospect, the 6'4", 22-year-old hit .283 with 28 homers with 95 RBIs at AA.

OF Mike Rodriguez Made 40-man roster in steady advance through minors after helping Miami win College World Series.

2B Brooks Conrad Big offensive year in AAA with 40 doubles, 15 triples, 24 homers and 94 RBIs.

RHP Paul Estrada Struck out 134 in 88.2 innings in AA with an 8–5 record, 3.05 ERA and 15 saves.

OF Josh Anderson An excellent defensive outfielder, he led the Double-A Texas League in stolen bases with 43 and hit .308.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Phil Garner **COACHES:** Mark Bailey, Sean Berry, Cecil Cooper, Jose Cruz, Doug Mansolino, Dave Wallace

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
37	Matt Albers	L-R	1/20/83	**HOUSTON**	**0-2**	**6.00**	**4**	**0**	**15.0**	**11**
				Round Rock (AAA)	2-1	3.96	4	0	25.0	26
	Miguel Asencio	R-R	9/29/80	**COLORADO**	**1-0**	**4.70**	**3**	**0**	**7.2**	**7**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	8-7	5.03	38	1	111.0	71
				Corpus Christi (AA)	10-2	2.17	19	0	116.0	95
38	Ezequiel Astacio	R-R	11/4/79	**HOUSTON**	**2-0**	**11.12**	**6**	**0**	**5.2**	**6**
				Round Rock (AAA)	8-4	4.86	21	0	92.2	76
41	Brandon Backe	R-R	4/5/78	**HOUSTON**	**3-2**	**3.77**	**8**	**0**	**43.0**	**19**
				Round Rock (AAA)	1-2	5.31	4	0	20.1	13
66	Jimmy Barthmaier	R-R	1/6/84	Salem (A)	11-8	3.62	27	0	146.2	134
58	Dave Borkowski	R-R	2/7/77	**HOUSTON**	**3-2**	**4.69**	**40**	**0**	**71.0**	**52**
	Paul Estrada	R-R	9/10/82	Corpus Christi (AA)	8-5	3.05	56	15	88.2	134
71	Juan Gutierrez	R-R	7/14/83	Corpus Christi (AA)	8-4	3.04	20	0	103.2	106
	Lincoln Holdzkom	R-R	3/23/82	West Tenn (AA)	2-3	1.95	18	0	32.1	27
				Daytona (A)	0-0	0.00	2	0	5.0	6
				AZL Cubs (R)	0-0	2.08	5	0	8.2	10
	Jason Jennings	L-R	7/17/78	**COLORADO**	**9-13**	**3.78**	**32**	**0**	**212.0**	**142**
54	Brad Lidge	R-R	12/23/76	**HOUSTON**	**1-5**	**5.28**	**78**	**31**	**75.0**	**104**
62	Mark McLemore	L-L	10/9/80	Round Rock (AAA)	2-3	2.81	21	0	57.2	52
47	Trever Miller	R-L	5/29/73	**HOUSTON**	**2-3**	**3.02**	**70**	**1**	**50.2**	**56**
64	Fernando Nieve	R-R	7/15/82	**HOUSTON**	**3-3**	**4.20**	**40**	**0**	**96.1**	**70**
				Round Rock (AAA)	0-0	0.00	4	2	5.1	7
44	Roy Oswalt	R-R	8/29/77	**HOUSTON**	**15-8**	**2.98**	**33**	**0**	**220.2**	**166**
55	Felipe Paulino Del Guidice	R-R	10/5/83	Salem (A)	9-7	4.35	27	0	126.1	91
50	Chad Qualls	R-R	8/17/78	**HOUSTON**	**6-4**	**3.28**	**77**	**0**	**79.2**	**60**
51	Wandy Rodriguez	S-L	1/18/79	**HOUSTON**	**9-10**	**5.64**	**30**	**0**	**135.2**	**198**
				Round Rock (AAA)	2-2	6.92	5	0	26.0	13
43	Chris Sampson	R-R	5/23/78	**HOUSTON**	**2-1**	**2.12**	**12**	**0**	**34.0**	**15**
				Round Rock (AAA)	12-3	2.51	27	4	125.2	68
35	Dan Wheeler	R-R	12/10/77	**HOUSTON**	**3-5**	**2.52**	**75**	**9**	**71.1**	**68**
29	Woody Williams	R-R	8/19/66	**SAN DIEGO**	**12-5**	**3.65**	**25**	**0**	**145.1**	**72**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
11	Brad Ausmus	R-R	4/14/69	**HOUSTON**	**.230**	**139**	**439**	**37**	**2**	**39**	**3**
56	Hector Gimenez	S-R	9/28/82	**HOUSTON**	**.000**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Corpus Christi (AA)	.273	121	454	47	12	58	2
46	Humberto Quintero	R-R	8/8/79	**HOUSTON**	**.333**	**11**	**21**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**0**
				Round Rock (AAA)	.288	52	191	23	8	31	2
				Corpus Christi (AA)	.182	4	11	0	0	1	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
17	Lance Berkman	S-L	2/10/76	**HOUSTON**	**.315**	**152**	**536**	**95**	**45**	**136**	**3**
7	Craig Biggio	R-R	12/14/65	**HOUSTON**	**.246**	**145**	**548**	**79**	**21**	**62**	**3**
4	Eric Bruntlett	R-R	3/29/78	**HOUSTON**	**.277**	**73**	**119**	**11**	**0**	**10**	**3**
				Round Rock (AAA)	.219	22	73	11	1	7	3
	Brooks Conrad	S-R	1/16/80	Round Rock (AAA)	.267	138	532	100	24	94	15
14	Morgan Ensberg	R-R	8/26/75	**HOUSTON**	**.235**	**127**	**387**	**67**	**23**	**58**	**1**
				Round Rock (AAA)	.500	3	12	2	2	7	0
28	Adam Everett	R-R	2/5/77	**HOUSTON**	**.239**	**150**	**514**	**52**	**6**	**59**	**9**
26	Mike Lamb	L-R	8/9/75	**HOUSTON**	**.307**	**126**	**381**	**70**	**12**	**45**	**2**
	Mark Loretta	R-R	8/14/71	**BOSTON**	**.285**	**155**	**635**	**75**	**5**	**59**	**4**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
20	Josh Anderson	L-R	8/10/82	Corpus Christi (AA)	.308	130	561	83	3	50	43
2	Chris Burke	R-R	3/11/80	**HOUSTON**	**.276**	**123**	**366**	**58**	**9**	**40**	**11**
				Round Rock (AAA)	.500	2	8	2	1	2	1
	Richard Hidalgo	R-R	6/28/75	NONE			Missed Season				
52	Charlton Jimerson	R-R	9/22/79	**HOUSTON**	**.333**	**17**	**6**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**2**
				Round Rock (AAA)	.247	123	470	56	18	45	28
16	Jason Lane	R-L	12/22/76	**HOUSTON**	**.201**	**112**	**288**	**44**	**15**	**45**	**1**
				Round Rock (AAA)	.261	12	46	7	1	11	1
45	Carlos Lee	R-R	6/20/76	**MILWAUKEE**	**.286**	**102**	**388**	**60**	**28**	**81**	**12**
				TEXAS	**.322**	**59**	**236**	**42**	**9**	**35**	**7**
19	Orlando Palmeiro	L-L	1/19/69	**HOUSTON**	**.252**	**103**	**119**	**12**	**0**	**17**	**0**
	Mike Rodriguez	L-L	8/15/80	Round Rock (AAA)	.276	113	439	70	6	38	28
30	Luke Scott	L-R	6/25/78	**HOUSTON**	**.336**	**65**	**214**	**31**	**10**	**37**	**2**
				Round Rock (AAA)	.299	87	318	63	20	63	6

Milwaukee Brewers

2007 Prediction: **2nd**

2006 Finish: 75–87

NL Central

Though the Brewers ranked near the bottom of the NL in pitching, hitting and defense in 2006, that was more a function of injuries to three starting infielders and two starting pitchers than a lack of talent. With a solid starting rotation and bullpen and dynamic offensive threats in Bill Hall, Prince Fielder, and Rickie Weeks, this is a team that, despite a modest payroll, can compete with anybody in the Central Division.

Rotation Optimists point to the Brewers' starting rotation and note that Ben Sheets has the stuff to become one of the game's elite, Chris Capuano is an All-Star-caliber lefty, Dave Bush and Claudio Vargas led their teams in victories last year, and Jeff Suppan was the MVP of the NLCS. Pessimists say that Sheets is coming off an injury-plagued season and has never won more than 12 games, Capuano won only one game after the break last year, Bush and Vargas are hardly proven winners and Suppan has a career record only five games over .500. Still, even the highest-spending teams have question marks in the starting rotation, and the Brewers seemingly have assembled a more than adequate staff. Suppan's 44 wins over the last three seasons tie for ninth in all of baseball, while Sheets, though he's never finished a season more than one win over .500, owns a solid career ERA of 3.83.

PRINCE FIELDER
first base

Bullpen Manager Ned Yost certainly has options in the pen. Francisco Cordero, who was nearly perfect after being acquired in the Carlos Lee trade with Texas, enters the season as the closer, but he pitched his way out of that role as a Ranger. Derrick Turnbow, meanwhile, pitched well enough in the first half to earn a spot on the All-Star team but suffered one of the monumental meltdowns in recent baseball history, blowing eight saves in '06 and compiling a 13.06 ERA in his final 27 appearances. Greg Aquino is another setup man with big league closer experience, having served as Arizona's top fireman in late 2004. Jose Capellan emerged as a fairly reliable option in the pen last year, leading the club with 61 appearances, but he gave up too many costly hits and homers (11 in 71.2 IP). Brian Shouse is the top lefty out of the bullpen — he was outstanding in his first 52 appearances (2.12 ERA) before tiring late in the season (18.84 ERA in final 12 games).

Middle Infield Relying on two young and unproven middle infielders, both coming off significant injuries, sounds like a recipe for disaster, but the potential reward is more than worth the risk for Milwaukee. In Weeks, the Brewers believe they have one of the most exciting second basemen in the game. Though widely criticized for his defensive deficiencies, Weeks made major strides in the field before suffering a season-ending wrist injury. Weeks' quick and powerful bat and his speed on the bases could make him the sort of offensive catalyst unseen in Milwaukee since the days of Molitor and Yount. J.J. Hardy, meanwhile, has impressed Brewer brass with his steady play in the field, though his offensive production has been inconsistent. By moving Hall to the outfield, the Brewers have placed extreme confidence in Hardy's abilities.

Corners At times, Fielder was the only productive bat in the Brewer lineup last year, and that may have been an unfair load to bear for a rookie. Fielder set a franchise rookie record with 28 homers and led the team with 81 RBIs, but his production cooled down the stretch; he hit just .230 with eight homers in the final two months. Still, in a league full of talented rookies, Fielder ranked near the top of the class, and he figures to be a mainstay in the heart of the Milwaukee lineup as long as the team can afford his paycheck. Another infielder returning from injury is third baseman Corey Koskie, who missed the final three months with post-traumatic concussion syndrome. Koskie lends a veteran presence to the young infield, and his left-handed power stroke is much needed.

Outfield Any club coming off a fourth-place, sub-.500 season has weaknesses, and it would appear the Brewers' biggest concern is in the outfield. Hall makes the transition from shortstop to centerfield, and while the move has worked in Milwaukee before (Robin Yount won the MVP at both positions), there's no guarantee of success. Hall's bat and relentlessly positive team attitude make him this club's most valuable and likeable player, but with more offensive production expected of an outfielder than a middle infielder, he is likely to feel more pressure to produce than ever before. Geoff Jenkins returns for a 10th season in Milwaukee, and detractors point to his weak production last year as no anomaly — he's never driven in 100 runs. At the other corner, Corey Hart earns a full-time job after hitting eight homers in the final two months of the season when he earned more playing time.

STATLINE

Fewest Walks by a Brewer with 200+ IP

1. **Ben Sheets** ..... **32 (2004)**
2. **Dave Bush** ..... **38 (2006)**
3. Mike Caldwell 39 (1979)
4. Lary Sorensen 42 (1979)
5. **Ben Sheets** ..... **43 (2003)**

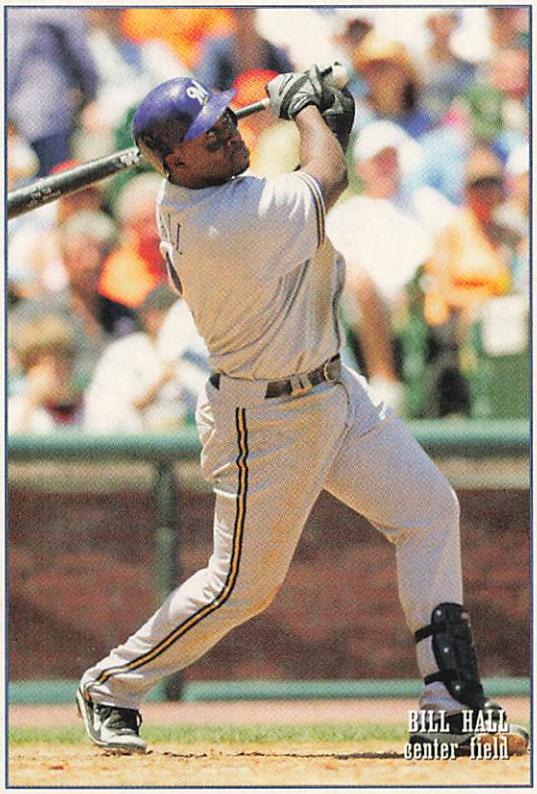
Fielder: Paul Jasienski/Getty Images; Hall: Don Smith/MLB/Getty Images

Catching The biggest trade the Brewers made over the winter brought Johnny Estrada from Arizona. With Estrada, the Brewers have a .300 hitter that deepens the lineup. They believe with the tutelage of Damian Miller, Estrada's defense will improve sufficiently.

Bench In Tony Graffanino and Craig Counsell, the Brewers have the epitome of hard-nosed veterans to help shepherd the young starters at every infield position. Counsell returns for his second tour of duty in Milwaukee (his first was largely unproductive), while Graffanino's all-around solid play was a bright spot last year in Weeks' absence. Miller gracefully takes a step back to the bench as his skills decline, but the veteran catcher with World Series experience is just what a manager wants in a backup. Tony Gwynn Jr. and Gabe Gross will also push for playing time in a crowded outfield — both showed flashes of promise in limited action a year ago. Kevin Mench adjusted poorly to NL pitching after joining the Brewers last July, but hopes are he'll regain the pop in his bat that produced 25 and 26 home runs the previous two seasons.

Management Owner Mark Attanasio and GM Doug Melvin have deservedly taken their place among the small market executives recognized for knowing how to compete without big payrolls. By drafting wisely, trading veterans for solid young prospects and key role players, and using free agent dollars judiciously, Melvin has compiled a roster that Yost can win with.

Final Analysis The Brewers' time is now. Actually, it was last year, when 84 wins would have won the division, but a spate of injuries spoiled their chances. With perhaps the most exciting young infield in the game and a deep pitching staff, Milwaukee has the talent to compete. Chances are, however, they'll need a lot more than 84 wins to make the postseason this year.


BILL HALL
center field

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Prince Fielder
High-Dividend Hurler: Ben Sheets
Buy Recommendation: Rickie Weeks
Sell Recommendation: Geoff Jenkins
Medical (In)Securities: J.J. Hardy
IPO: 3B Ryan Braun
Futures Market: RHP Yovani Gallardo
Insider Tip: Weeks will be worth a lot more than you pay for him.

STATISTICIAN

1 Victories by Chris Capuano in the second half of the season.
2 Errors by Rickie Weeks in his final 43 games of '06 (after 20 in first 52 games).
3 All-time franchise attendance ranking for Brewers in 2006, at 2.3 million.
12 Wins by Dave Bush in '06, tops among Brewer pitchers.
13.06 ERA for Derrick Turnbow in his final 27 appearances of 2006.
27 Number of homers Bill Hall hit while playing shortstop in '06, leading the majors.
28 Homers by Prince Fielder, a Brewer rookie record.
48 Wins at Miller Park, most at home since 1992.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

GM Doug Melvin and manager Ned Yost are showing incredible confidence in J.J. Hardy's potential, moving the potent Bill Hall to the outfield so Hardy can regain his post at shortstop. Hardy has a steady glove but has been inconsistent at the plate in parts of two big league seasons. If he can stay healthy and can hit, he could be the missing link in '07 and a fixture at short for years to come. If not, the Brewer braintrust could lose patience, and his days in Milwaukee could be numbered.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

2B Rickie Weeks
Hit .305 (51-for-167) vs. Central Division foes.

SS J.J. Hardy
Steady in the field; inconsistent at the plate and prone to injury.

CF Bill Hall
Moves to CF in order to keep his productive bat in the lineup.

1B Prince Fielder
Big bopper mostly lived up to high expectations as a rookie.

LF Geoff Jenkins
Power numbers (17 HR, 70 RBIs) were down in 2006.

3B Corey Koskie
Capable of 20 HRs, 80 RBIs if he can stay healthy.

RF Corey Hart
Showed flashes in part-time duty last year.

C Johnny Estrada
Can provide the production at catcher that Brewers have lacked.

BENCH

INF Tony Graffanino
Steady veteran's clutch bat was a pleasant surprise last year.

INF Craig Counsell
Veteran returns for second tour in Milwaukee.

C Damian Miller
Gives team reliable backup backstop as his career winds down.

OF Tony Gwynn Jr.
Speedy CF still must prove he's ready for significant at-bats.

OF Gabe Gross
A productive pinch-hitter with power potential.

ROTATION

RHP Ben Sheets
Could this be the year he wins 20?

LHP Chris Capuano
Must maintain his stuff for a full season for Crew to contend.

RHP Jeff Suppan
Offseason acquisition lands biggest contract in club history.

RHP Dave Bush
Consistent hurler throws strikes and led team in wins.

RHP Claudio Vargas
Set career highs for wins, innings and Ks for Arizona last year.

BULLPEN

RHP Francisco Cordero
Shined after move to Milwaukee: 3–1 with a 1.69 ERA.

RHP Derrick Turnbow
Second-half implosion helped kill team's chances to contend.

RHP Jose Capellan
Workhorse of the bullpen is hit or miss.

LHP Brian Shouse
Gives Ned Yost a left-handed setup man with a rubber arm.

RHP Greg Aquino
Saved 16 games as a rookie for Arizona in 2004.

RHP Carlos Villanueva
Impressed after call-up from Double-A; could start if needed.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Ned Yost **COACHES:** Bill Castro, Nick Leyva, Mike Maddux, Ed Sedar, Jim Skaalen, Dale Sveum

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
41	Greg Aquino	R-R	1/11/78	**ARIZONA**	**2-0**	**4.47**	**42**	**0**	**48.1**	**51**
				Tuscon (AAA)	2-0	0.00	9	1	11.2	15
62	Grant Balfour	R-R	12/30/77	Sarasota (A)	0-0	7.94	5	0	5.2	7
				Dayton (A)	0-0	0.00	2	0	2.0	3
				GCL Reds (R)	0-0	13.50	2	0	1.1	2
31	Dave Bush	R-R	11/9/79	**MILWAUKEE**	**12-11**	**4.42**	**34**	**0**	**210.0**	**166**
52	Jose Capellan	R-R	1/13/81	**MILWAUKEE**	**4-2**	**4.40**	**61**	**0**	**71.2**	**58**
				Huntsville (AA)	0-0	0.00	1	0	1.0	2
39	Chris Capuano	L-L	8/19/78	**MILWAUKEE**	**11-12**	**4.03**	**34**	**0**	**221.1**	**174**
48	Francisco Cordero	R-R	5/11/75	**MILWAUKEE**	**3-1**	**1.69**	**28**	**16**	**26.2**	**30**
				TEXAS	**7-4**	**4.81**	**49**	**6**	**48.2**	**54**
40	Ben Hendrickson	R-R	2/4/81	**MILWAUKEE**	**0-2**	**12.00**	**4**	**0**	**12.0**	**8**
				Nashville (AAA)	9-8	3.36	23	0	139.1	97
13	Zach Jackson	L-L	5/13/83	**MILWAUKEE**	**2-2**	**5.40**	**8**	**0**	**38.1**	**22**
				Nashville (AAA)	4-6	4.12	18	0	107.0	58
70	Mike Jones	R-R	4/23/83	Huntsville (AA)	0-0	0.00	1	0	4.0	3
				Brevard County (A)	0-2	2.80	19	0	54.2	30
65	Manny Parra	L-L	10/30/82	Huntsville (AA)	3-0	2.87	6	0	31.1	29
				Brevard County (A)	1-3	2.96	15	0	54.2	61
45	Dennis Sarfate	R-R	4/9/81	**MILWAUKEE**	**0-0**	**4.32**	**8**	**0**	**8.1**	**11**
				Nashville (AAA)	10-7	3.67	34	0	125.0	117
15	Ben Sheets	R-R	7/18/78	**MILWAUKEE**	**6-7**	**3.82**	**17**	**0**	**106.0**	**116**
				Nashville (AAA)	2-1	2.40	3	0	15.0	15
				Huntsville (AA)	0-0	3.38	1	0	2.2	5
				AZL Brewers (R)	0-0	10.38	1	0	4.1	8
51	Brian Shouse	L-L	9/26/68	**MILWAUKEE**	**1-3**	**3.97**	**59**	**2**	**34.0**	**20**
				TEXAS	**0-0**	**4.15**	**6**	**0**	**4.1**	**3**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	0-1	5.40	5	0	5.0	3
				Frisco (AA)	0-0	0.00	2	0	2.0	1
37	Jeff Suppan	R-R	1/2/75	**ST. LOUIS**	**12-7**	**4.12**	**32**	**0**	**190.0**	**104**
59	Derrick Turnbow	R-R	1/25/78	**MILWAUKEE**	**4-9**	**6.87**	**64**	**24**	**56.1**	**69**
46	Claudio Vargas	R-R	6/19/78	**ARIZONA**	**12-10**	**4.83**	**31**	**0**	**167.2**	**123**
43	Carlos Villanueva	R-R	11/28/83	**MILWAUKEE**	**2-2**	**3.69**	**10**	**0**	**53.2**	**39**
				Nashville (AAA)	7-1	2.71	11	0	66.1	61
				Huntsville (AA)	4-5	3.75	11	0	62.1	59
38	Matt Wise	R-R	11/18/75	**MILWAUKEE**	**5-6**	**3.86**	**40**	**0**	**44.1**	**27**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
55	JD Closser	S-R	1/15/80	**COLORADO**	**.196**	**32**	**97**	**10**	**2**	**11**	**0**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	.298	70	225	32	8	30	8
33	Johnny Estrada	S-R	6/27/76	**ARIZONA**	**.302**	**115**	**414**	**43**	**11**	**71**	**0**
26	Damian Miller	R-R	10/13/69	**MILWAUKEE**	**.251**	**101**	**331**	**34**	**6**	**38**	**0**
11	Mike Rivera	R-R	9/8/76	**MILWAUKEE**	**.268**	**46**	**142**	**16**	**6**	**24**	**0**
				Nashville (AAA)	.296	60	213	30	10	46	3

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
30	Craig Counsell	L-R	8/21/70	**ARIZONA**	**.255**	**105**	**372**	**56**	**4**	**30**	**15**
28	Prince Fielder	L-R	5/9/84	**MILWAUKEE**	**.271**	**157**	**569**	**82**	**28**	**81**	**7**
9	Tony Graffanino	R-R	6/6/72	**MILWAUKEE**	**.280**	**60**	**236**	**34**	**2**	**27**	**2**
				KANSAS CITY	**.268**	**69**	**220**	**34**	**5**	**32**	**3**
2	Bill Hall	R-R	12/28/79	**MILWAUKEE**	**.270**	**148**	**537**	**101**	**35**	**85**	**8**
7	J.J. Hardy	R-R	8/19/82	**MILWAUKEE**	**.242**	**35**	**128**	**13**	**5**	**14**	**1**
61	Hernan Iribarren	L-R	6/29/84	Brevard County (A)	.319	108	398	50	2	50	19
47	Corey Koskie	L-R	6/28/73	**MILWAUKEE**	**.261**	**76**	**257**	**29**	**12**	**33**	**1**
8	Vinny Rottino	R-R	4/7/80	**MILWAUKEE**	**.214**	**9**	**14**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**
				Nashville (AAA)	.314	117	398	55	7	42	12
23	Rickie Weeks	R-R	9/13/82	**MILWAUKEE**	**.279**	**95**	**359**	**73**	**8**	**34**	**19**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
21	Drew Anderson	L-R	6/9/81	**MILWAUKEE**	**.111**	**9**	**9**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Nashville (AAA)	.333	16	63	15	1	9	3
				Huntsville (AA)	.291	108	402	60	6	43	17
27	Brady Clark	R-R	4/18/73	**MILWAUKEE**	**.263**	**138**	**415**	**51**	**4**	**29**	**3**
18	Gabe Gross	L-R	10/21/79	**MILWAUKEE**	**.274**	**117**	**208**	**42**	**9**	**38**	**1**
22	Tony Gwynn Jr.	L-R	10/4/82	**MILWAUKEE**	**.260**	**32**	**77**	**5**	**0**	**4**	**3**
				Nashville (AAA)	.300	112	447	73	4	42	30
1	Corey Hart	R-R	3/24/82	**MILWAUKEE**	**.283**	**87**	**237**	**32**	**9**	**33**	**5**
				Nashville (AAA)	.320	26	100	19	4	21	11
5	Geoff Jenkins	L-R	7/21/74	**MILWAUKEE**	**.271**	**147**	**484**	**62**	**17**	**70**	**4**
24	Kevin Mench	R-R	1/7/78	**MILWAUKEE**	**.230**	**40**	**126**	**9**	**1**	**18**	**0**
				TEXAS	**.284**	**87**	**320**	**36**	**12**	**50**	**1**
20	Laynce Nix	L-L	10/30/80	**MILWAUKEE**	**.229**	**10**	**35**	**2**	**1**	**6**	**0**
				Nashville (AAA)	.412	18	68	16	7	13	0
				TEXAS	**.094**	**9**	**32**	**1**	**0**	**4**	**0**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	.269	77	286	39	10	55	4

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

(NOT) LOST IN TRANSLATION Chris Capuano may have an ace up his sleeve against some of the NL's Japanese hitters — he now speaks their language. The Duke graduate worked with Tomo Ohka on his language skills last season and put his knowledge to the test as a part of the Major League contingent that toured Japan in the offseason.

JACK OF NO TRADES AND MASTER OF NONE The Brewers' step backward last year was not attributable to any one glaring deficiency; in fact, the Crew ranked near the bottom of the NL in virtually everything that matters — 13th in fielding percentage (.980), 14th in batting average (.258), and 15th in ERA (4.82).

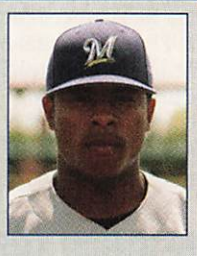
CAN'T STAND PROSPERITY As late as Aug. 24, the Brewers stood just 4.5 games out of both the Central Division lead and a wild card berth. Milwaukee then proceeded to score 2.9 runs per game over the next 10 games, losing all of them.

SOME ALL-STARS Three Brewers made the NL All-Star team last year — just about the last highlight of the season for each of them. Carlos Lee was soon shipped off to Texas, Chris Capuano won only one game after the break, and Derrick Turnbow lost his job as closer.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME Ned Yost might need to bring along a sack of bratwurst when the Brewers hit the road next year — anything to convince his players they're still in Milwaukee. As good as the Brewers were at Miller Park (48–33), they wasted those wins on the road, going 27–54 away from Milwaukee.

COACHING SHAKE-UP Yost finds himself surrounded by an unfamiliar braintrust. Coaches Robin Yount, Dave Nelson and Butch Wynegar are gone, and Dale Sveum has transitioned from third base coach to bench coach. Jim Skaalen is the new hitting coach, Ed Sedar is at first and Nick Leyva coaches third.

THE FARM SYSTEM



2006 Top Draft Pick

Drafting high school pitchers in the first round is a risky proposition, but the Brewers took a chance on flame-throwing righthander **Jeremy Jeffress** with the No. 16 overall pick. Jeffress has an effortless delivery and confident demeanor. He struggled with his control in 13 games in the Arizona Rookie League last year (25 walks) but did whiff 37 batters in 33.2 innings. The Brewers have no plans to rush him to the big leagues but believe he has the stuff to be a No. 1 starter someday.

Prospects

3B Ryan Braun First-round pick in 2005 is ready for big leagues offensively but shaky with the glove.

P Yovani Gallardo Young righthander with great stuff and good control will get a strong look in spring training.

P Will Inman A third-round pick in 2005, Inman is 16–2 in two minor league seasons.

OF Lorenzo Cain A 17th-round pick in 2004, Cain is a former MVP of the Arizona Rookie League.

OF Cole Gillespie A third-round pick in 2006, Gillespie was Pac-10 Player of the Year, leading Oregon State to NCAA title.

Bill Mitchell

Pittsburgh Pirates

2007 Prediction: 6th

2006 Finish: 67–95
NL Central

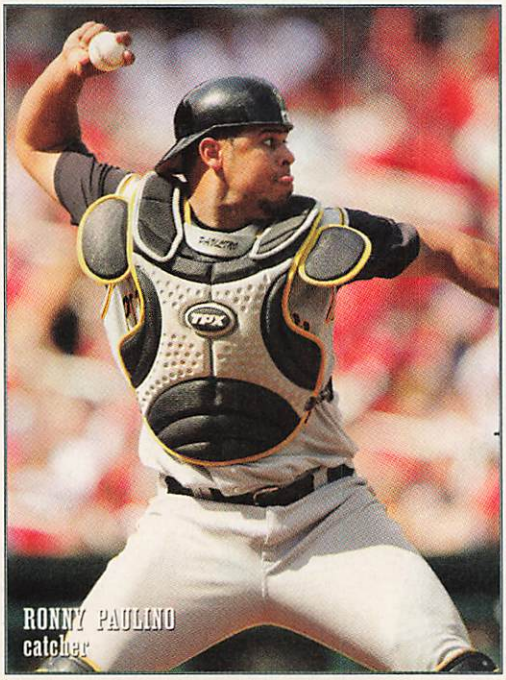
The Pirates' dramatic improvement in the second half last season encouraged manager Jim Tracy immensely. The Pirates were a woeful 30–60 at the All-Star break, including a 9–27 record in one-run games. They also became the first team to have 25 one-run losses by July 4. However, they were a major league-best 15–4 in one-run games after the break while going 37–35. "By the end of the season, we had a very good clubhouse (atmosphere)," Tracy said. "This means when we start spring training, we can pick up right where we left off. We won't be starting over."

Rotation The rotation will be young (again) — or at least relatively inexperienced. Zach Duke (48), Ian Snell (38), Paul Maholm (36) and Tom Gorzelanny (12) have made a combined 134 major league starts. However, because they're all homegrown products, they formed a strong bond last season and seem determined to be part of what they feel is an uptick in the team's fortunes. Snell, who some in the organization felt would be better suited to the bullpen, emerged as the top winner (14) in his first full big league season. The Pirates sought a veteran right-handed starter during the winter and made quite a run at Jeff Suppan, but they'll have to fall back on Shawn Chacon as the fifth starter. Rookie lefthander Shane Youman could challenge for that spot with a strong spring.

Bullpen In his first opportunity as a closer, lefthander Mike Gonzalez was 24-for-24 in save chances, but the Pirates craved a left-handed power bat, so they dealt Gonzalez to Atlanta for first baseman Adam LaRoche. The Pirates were able to make the deal because they knew they had durable Salomon Torres as an option to close in 2007. Torres had 12 saves in the final month when Gonzalez was unavailable because of left elbow tendinitis. The bullpen should be a force again in 2007 no matter how it shakes out. Righthander Matt Capps had an impressive rookie season and could be the closer at some point. John Grabow continued to impress as a situational lefthander. Damaso Marte also was effective against left-handed batters. Righthander Josh Sharpless, like Capps, showed great promise. Righthander Marty McLeary could win a job in spring training, depending on Gonzalez's situation.

Middle Infield The Pirates appeared rock solid in the middle heading into last season. However, shortstop Jack Wilson and second baseman Jose Castillo were not the same strong double play combination last season that they formed in 2005. Castillo seemed to lose some range and made very few of the spectacular plays he made in 2005. Wilson made a career-high 18 errors. Wilson no doubt will regroup, but it remains to be seen whether Castillo will return. He was a trade candidate all winter. Freddy Sanchez could move from third base to second if Castillo does wind up being dealt.

Corners The Pirates entered the 2006 season with Sean Casey at first base and Joe Randa at third base. That pairing did not last long. Randa hurt his foot in May, allowing Sanchez to take over at third and win the National League batting title. Casey broke his back and had other injuries and was traded to Detroit in late July. If Castillo stays at second base,


RONNY PAULINO
catcher

Paulino: Philip Wolmuth/Getty Images

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

CF Chris Duffy
Pitchers love having him roam center field.

SS Jack Wilson
Had a down year defensively with a career-high 18 errors.

3B Freddy Sanchez
Won the job at third base and won the NL batting title.

1B Adam LaRoche
Acquired from the Braves to give the Pirates more pop.

LF Jason Bay
Had another 30-100 season, but 156 strikeouts were alarming.

RF Xavier Nady
Hit 14 HRs in 265 ABs in New York; just 3 in 203 in Pittsburgh.

C Ronny Paulino
Established a great rapport with the pitchers and also hit .310.

2B Jose Castillo
Lost focus and overall had an erratic season.

BENCH

INF Jose Hernandez
Career batting average of .252 and propensity for striking out.

OF Jody Gerut
Missed all of last season because of knee trouble.

OF Jose Bautista
Pirates must find a position for him and let him develop there.

OF Nate McLouth
Stole 10 bases in 11 attempts and batted .233 as a pinch-hitter.

C/1B Ryan Doumit
A switch-hitter with more pop from the left side.

C Carlos Maldonado
Probably will emerge as the full-time backup to Paulino.

ROTATION

LHP Zach Duke
Struggled early but had a 3.65 ERA after the break.

RHP Ian Snell
14 wins were the most by a Pirate starter since 1999.

LHP Paul Maholm
Control was a problem, but he was 5–2 after the break.

LHP Tom Gorzelanny
Solidified spot in rotation with a 3.79 ERA in 11 starts.

RHP Shawn Chacon
Will face a challenge to hold onto final spot in the rotation.

BULLPEN

RHP Salomon Torres
Has compiled a 2.90 ERA over past three seasons.

RHP Matt Capps
Caught manager Jim Tracy's eye with remarkable control.

RHP Josh Sharpless
Sharp slider earned him a promotion to the Pirates July 31.

LHP John Grabow
Only 11 of 79 of inherited runners have scored in two seasons.

RHP Marty McLeary
He's 32 and has pitched in only eight major league games.

LHP Damaso Marte
Had five blown saves but was effective against lefties.

Sanchez will be the regular at third base. He didn't hit many home runs (6), but he still drove in 85 runs. And his ability to make consistent contact makes him a decent No. 3 batter. The left-handed-hitting LaRoche fills a big need in the lineup. He hit .285 with 32 home runs in 492 at-bats with the Braves last season. The arrival of LaRoche will likely put Xavier Nady back in the outfield, though he could still see some time at first. And there's still top prospect Brad Eldred, who missed almost all of last season with Class AAA Indianapolis because of a broken thumb.

Outfield Jason Bay in left field and Chris Duffy in center field are fixtures. Bay looks like a consistent 30-100 guy in the lineup, while Duffy's ability to reach base and steal bases often were keys in the Pirates' second-half surge. Plus, he's outstanding defensively. That brings us to right field, which will likely be occupied by Nady, though Jose Bautista is an option. Or maybe even catcher/first baseman Ryan Doumit, a switch-hitter who played some right field in winter ball. Bautista has offensive potential, but it seems the Pirates need to decide on a position — he also can play three infield positions — and let him develop.

Catching Ronny Paulino, after eight seasons in the minor leagues, finally got his chance to become the Pirates' regular catcher and made the most of it. Paulino joined the team from Indianapolis in mid-April when Doumit went down with a hamstring injury. The Pirates credited Paulino with stabilizing the rotation, and his .310 batting average did not hurt, either. He needs to improve defensively (nine passed balls, 11 errors), but he has a strong arm and threw out 32 percent of would-be base stealers.

Bench As the calendar turned from 2006 to 2007, the Pirate bench more resembled a stool. A quality big league bench usually includes a couple of seasoned role players, and the Pirates are lacking in that area. Assuming Nady starts in right, Bautista will become a valuable commodity, with the ability to play all over the diamond. He saw significant time in right, center and at third last year. Jose Hernandez signed on for a third stint with the Pirates, and is the only true utility infielder. Outfielder Nate McLouth should be a fixture on this year's bench, but he'll be in only his second full season. Same with Doumit. Outfielder Jody Gerut has barely played over the past two seasons and could win a job by default.

Management General manager Dave Littlefield received a one-year contract extension last Opening Day. That takes him through 2008, but that might be it if the club doesn't achieve at least a .500 season by then. Kevin McClatchy, the team's chief executive officer and managing general partner, has become more of a public spokesman for the organization. Many people feel the enigmatic Nutting family in West Virginia has much more control over the payroll than McClatchy now. That payroll is expected to be in the $50 million range for 2007, only a slight increase from the $47 million payroll of last season.

Final Analysis The Pirates should be an improved club in 2007, but they will still have a tough time breaking their streak of 14 consecutive losing seasons. Continuing to improve in one-run games would help, but they won't become serious contenders for even a wild card spot until they upgrade their everyday lineup and get to a point where they can rely on their starting pitching.

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Jason Bay
High-Dividend Hurler: Zach Duke
Buy Recommendation: Chris Duffy
Sell Recommendation: Ronny Paulino
Medical (In)Securities: Bay
IPO: LHP Tom Gorzelanny
Futures Market: OF Andrew McCutchen
Insider Tip: Xavier Nady and Jose Bautista will make solid moves forward.

STATLINE

Most Runners/9 IP by a Pirates LHP, Last 60 Years

1. **Paul Maholm.....15.09 (2006)**
2. Steve Cooke.....14.52 (1997)
3. Jimmy Andeson.....14.22 (2001)
4. Steve Cooke.....13.94 (1994)
5. **Zach Duke.....13.79 (2006)**

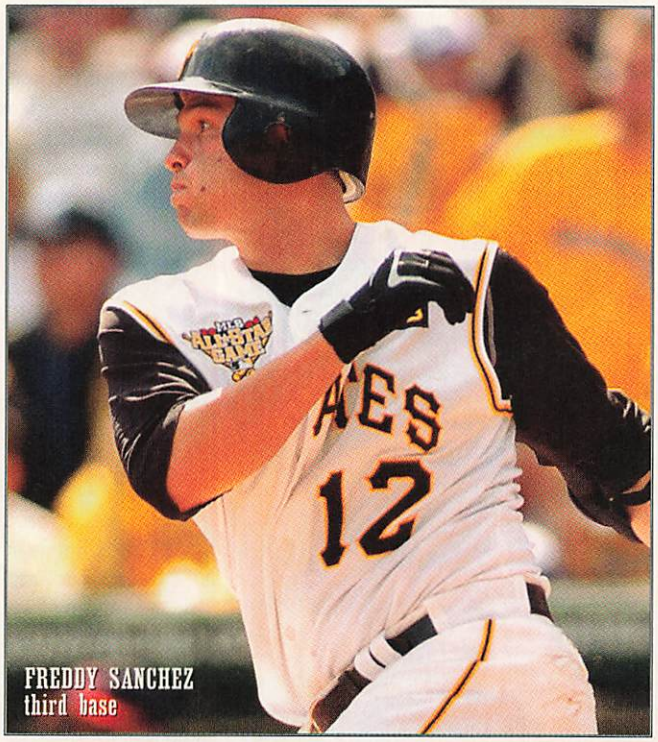
(qualifying starters)

STATISTICIAN

- .344 Batting average compiled by Freddy Sanchez in winning the National League batting title.
- .442 Sanchez's batting average against lefthanders, which was the best in the National League.
- 25 Number of batting titles won by Pirates — the most of any team.
- 43 Number of Pirate home wins, marking their first winning season at home in the six-year history of PNC Park.
- 6 Number of Pirate losses before they got their first win in 2006. It was the fourth time they went winless in their first six games.
- 35 Number of RBIs Jason Bay had in May.
- 6 Number of consecutive games in which Bay homered May 22-28.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

In 2005, **Jose Castillo** drew raves. Last season, he attracted rants. The second baseman in 2005 seemed to be a Gold Glover in waiting, but in 2006 his errors increased to 18 from 12, and there were a ton of ground balls that went past him. Castillo put on weight after 2005, and that cost him a step or two. He also showed little focus at the plate at times. If he's still with the Pirates when the 2007 season begins, Castillo must return to his 2005 level. If he does, he could be the difference in 10 or 12 more victories.



Sanchez: Steve Moore; Lincoln: Bill Mitchell

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

TURNAROUND The Pirates' improvement of 181 percentage points from their 30–60 (.333) record at the All-Star break to their 37–35 (.514) mark after the break was the largest in club history and the largest by a National League team since Houston improved by 215 points in 2000 (30–57, .345 to 42–33, .560).

TURNAROUND, PART II The Pirates' 37–35 record after the All-Star break marked their first winning "second half" since they were 47–27 in 1992 — the last year in which they had a winning record overall.

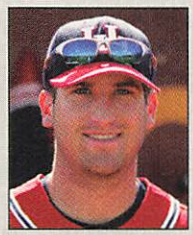
INTERNATIONAL WATERS The Pirates took a rare (for them) venture into the international talent pool during the winter by signing a Cuban defector and a Japanese veteran to add right-handed pitching depth. Yoslan Herrera, 25, was 18–7 with a 3.27 earned run average in Cuba but hasn't pitched competitively since July 2005 while waiting in the Dominican Republic to be allowed entrance to the United States. Masumi Kuwata, 38, was a 21-year veteran in Japan. Both probably will begin this season with Class AAA Indianapolis.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH En route to starting last season 0–6, the Pirates were 0–4 for the sixth time in their history. The last four seasons in which that happened — 2006, 1994, 1974 and 1959 — the Pirates also hosted the All-Star game.

BAY WATCH Jason Bay's start in the All-Star game marked the first time a Pirate had started an All-Star game in Pittsburgh since Bob Elliott started at third base in 1944.

NICE COMPANY Ronny Paulino batted .310 and made 124 appearances at catcher last season. That made him the first rookie catcher to play in at least 100 games as a catcher and hit .310 or better since Mike Piazza of the Los Angeles Dodgers (.318) in 1993, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

THE FARM SYSTEM



2006 Top Draft Pick

The Pirates took righthander **Brad Lincoln** with the fourth overall pick in the June draft, marking the seventh time in nine years they took a pitcher with their first selection. Lincoln, from the University of Houston, brought a high-90s fastball and a major league curveball into the organization. After making four starts (1–2, 6.75) for Class A Hickory, Lincoln strained his left oblique and was done for the season. Lincoln probably will begin this season back at Hickory, but any success at all will get him to Class A Lynchburg quickly. He could be in the bigs by late '08.

Prospects

C Neil Walker Switch-hitter continues to do well with the bat, but catching deficiencies could force a move to third.

CF Andrew McCutchen First round pick in 2005 continues to impress. Could be with Indianapolis sometime this season.

SS Brian Bixler Hit .301 in 60 games with AA Altoona. Likely to start at Indy in '07.

CF Nyjer Morgan Stole 59 bases in 81 attempts last season in stints with Class A Lynchburg and Altoona.

SS Brent Lillibridge Combined to hit 13 HRs with 71 RBIs and 53 SBs with Hickory and Lynchburg.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Jim Tracy **COACHES:** Jim Colborn, Jeff Cox, Bobby Cuellar, Jim Lett, Jeff Manto, John Shelby

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
54	Jonah Bayliss	R-R	8/13/80	**PITTSBURGH**	**1-1**	**4.30**	**11**	**0**	**14.2**	**15**
				Indianapolis (AAA)	3-3	2.17	46	23	58.0	67
46	Bryan Bullington	R-R	9/30/80	INJURED			Missed Season			
18	Sean Burnett	L-L	9/17/82	Indianapolis (AAA)	8-11	5.16	25	0	120.1	46
55	Matt Capps	R-R	9/3/83	**PITTSBURGH**	**9-1**	**3.79**	**85**	**1**	**80.2**	**56**
32	Shawn Chacon	R-R	12/23/77	**PITTSBURGH**	**2-3**	**5.48**	**9**	**0**	**46.0**	**27**
				NEW YORK AL	**5-3**	**7.00**	**17**	**0**	**63.0**	**35**
				Trenton (AA)	0-0	5.40	1	0	5.0	3
50	Dave Davidson	L-L	4/23/84	Altoona (AA)	1-1	2.31	10	0	11.2	13
				Hickory (A)	2-1	1.93	27	0	56.0	72
				Lynchburg (A)	0-0	2.16	5	0	8.1	11
57	Zach Duke	L-L	4/19/83	**PITTSBURGH**	**10-15**	**4.47**	**34**	**0**	**215.1**	**117**
24	Tom Gorzelanny	L-L	7/12/82	**PITTSBURGH**	**2-5**	**3.79**	**11**	**0**	**61.2**	**64**
				Indianapolis (AAA)	6-5	2.35	16	0	99.2	94
34	John Grabow	L-L	11/4/78	**PITTSBURGH**	**4-2**	**4.13**	**72**	**0**	**69.2**	**66**
	Yoslan Herrera	R-R	4/28/81	DID NOT PLAY						
28	Paul Maholm	L-L	6/25/82	**PITTSBURGH**	**8-10**	**4.76**	**30**	**0**	**176.0**	**117**
43	Damaso Marte	L-L	2/14/75	**PITTSBURGH**	**1-7**	**3.70**	**75**	**0**	**58.1**	**63**
39	Marty McLeary	R-R	10/26/74	**PITTSBURGH**	**2-0**	**2.04**	**5**	**0**	**17.2**	**8**
				Indianapolis (AAA)	3-4	2.68	35	2	104.0	115
60	Franquelis Osoria	R-R	9/12/81	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**0-2**	**7.13**	**12**	**0**	**17.2**	**13**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	2-2	4.35	44	2	51.2	28
36	Juan Perez	R-L	9/3/78	**PITTSBURGH**	**0-1**	**8.10**	**7**	**0**	**3.1**	**3**
				Indianapolis (AAA)	0-0	0.00	4	0	7.0	6
				Norfolk (AAA)	0-1	2.86	43	0	63.0	55
59	Brian Rogers	R-R	7/17/82	**PITTSBURGH**	**0-0**	**8.31**	**10**	**0**	**8.2**	**7**
				Indianapolis (AAA)	1-1	1.08	7	1	8.1	8
				Altoona (AA)	0-0	0.00	2	1	4.0	5
				Erie (AA)	3-2	2.39	37	1	64.0	69
58	Romulo Sanchez	R-R	4/28/84	Altoona (AA)	0-0	5.00	8	0	9.0	5
				Hickory (A)	0-3	7.08	21	4	40.2	28
				Lynchburg (A)	0-0	1.04	8	1	8.2	6
44	Josh Sharpless	R-R	1/26/81	**PITTSBURGH**	**0-0**	**1.50**	**14**	**0**	**12.0**	**7**
				Indianapolis (AAA)	1-1	2.45	23	1	33.0	30
				Altoona (AA)	2-0	0.86	14	8	21.0	30
56	Josh Shortslef	R-L	2/1/82	Altoona (AA)	6-2	4.45	12	0	60.2	50
				GCL Pirates (R)	1-1	3.78	3	0	16.2	12
45	Ian Snell	R-R	10/30/81	**PITTSBURGH**	**14-11**	**4.74**	**32**	**0**	**186.0**	**169**
16	Salomon Torres	R-R	3/11/72	**PITTSBURGH**	**3-6**	**3.28**	**94**	**12**	**93.1**	**72**
47	John Van Benschoten	R-R	4/14/80	Indianapolis (AAA)	1-1	5.40	3	0	11.2	13
				Altoona (AA)	1-0	3.60	1	0	5.0	3
				GCL Pirates (R)	0-1	4.50	1	0	6.0	4
27	Shane Youman	L-L	10/11/79	**PITTSBURGH**	**0-2**	**2.91**	**5**	**0**	**21.2**	**5**
				Indianapolis (AAA)	4-0	4.04	8	0	42.1	19
				Altoona (AA)	7-2	1.51	23	1	95.1	64

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
11	Humberto Cota	R-R	2/7/79	**PITTSBURGH**	**.190**	**38**	**100**	**5**	**0**	**5**	**0**
41	Ryan Doumit	S-R	4/3/81	**PITTSBURGH**	**.208**	**61**	**149**	**15**	**6**	**17**	**0**
				Indianapolis (AAA)	.318	6	22	3	0	7	0
				Altoona (AA)	.333	4	15	4	0	4	0
				GCL Pirates (R)	.000	5	14	1	0	0	0
	Carlos Maldonado	R-R	1/3/79	**PITTSBURGH**	**.105**	**8**	**19**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**
				Indianapolis (AAA)	.283	103	336	37	6	47	2
				Altoona (AA)	.278	5	18	1	0	0	0
26	Ronny Paulino	R-R	4/21/81	**PITTSBURGH**	**.310**	**129**	**442**	**37**	**6**	**55**	**0**
				Indianapolis (AAA)	.241	8	29	2	0	4	1

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
19	Jose Bautista	R-R	10/19/80	**PITTSBURGH**	**.235**	**117**	**400**	**58**	**16**	**51**	**2**
				Indianapolis (AAA)	.277	29	101	12	2	9	2
14	Jose Castillo	R-R	3/19/81	**PITTSBURGH**	**.253**	**148**	**518**	**54**	**14**	**65**	**6**
35	Brad Eldred	R-R	7/12/80	Indianapolis (AAA)	.226	18	62	10	3	10	1
79	Javier Guzman	S-R	5/4/82	Altoona (AA)	.268	129	485	57	7	40	12
	Jose Hernandez	R-R	7/14/69	**PITTSBURGH**	**.267**	**67**	**120**	**8**	**2**	**12**	**0**
				PHILADELPHIA	**.250**	**18**	**32**	**4**	**1**	**7**	**0**
19	Adam LaRoche	L-L	11/6/79	**ATLANTA**	**.285**	**149**	**492**	**89**	**32**	**90**	**0**
22	Xavier Nady	R-R	11/14/78	**PITTSBURGH**	**.300**	**55**	**203**	**20**	**3**	**23**	**1**
				NEW YORK NL	**.264**	**75**	**265**	**37**	**14**	**40**	**2**
				Norfolk (AAA)	.364	3	11	2	0	3	0
12	Freddy Sanchez	R-R	12/21/77	**PITTSBURGH**	**.344**	**157**	**582**	**85**	**6**	**85**	**3**
2	Jack Wilson	R-R	12/29/77	**PITTSBURGH**	**.273**	**142**	**543**	**70**	**8**	**35**	**4**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
38	Jason Bay	R-R	9/20/78	**PITTSBURGH**	**.286**	**159**	**570**	**101**	**35**	**109**	**11**
10	Rajai Davis	R-R	10/19/80	**PITTSBURGH**	**.143**	**20**	**14**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**
				Indianapolis (AAA)	.283	100	385	53	2	21	45
6	Chris Duffy	L-L	4/20/80	**PITTSBURGH**	**.255**	**84**	**314**	**46**	**2**	**18**	**26**
				Indianapolis (AAA)	.349	26	106	18	2	19	13
29	Jody Gerut	L-L	9/18/77	INJURED			Missed Season				
49	Nate McLouth	L-R	10/28/81	**PITTSBURGH**	**.233**	**106**	**270**	**50**	**7**	**16**	**10**
13	Nyjer Morgan	L-L	7/2/80	Altoona (AA)	.306	56	219	39	1	10	21
				Lynchburg (A)	.303	61	228	43	0	22	38

St. Louis Cardinals

2007 Prediction: 1st

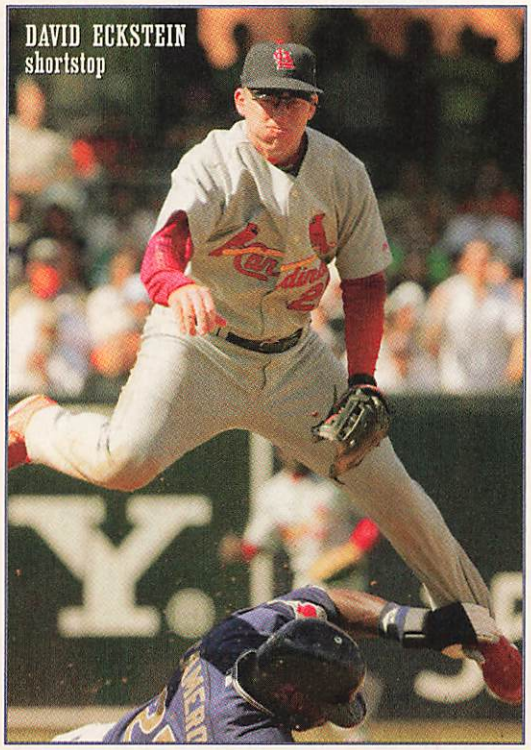
2006 Finish: 83–78

NL Central

Anyone who does not believe that pitching is the key to success need only chart the 2006 Cardinals. The team started well in April and May, as its starting pitching excelled. The team sagged during the summer, as its starting pitching collapsed. The team surprised in October, as its starting pitching re-emerged.

Starting pitching will be the operative category again for the 2006 champions. The offense is still formidable, with Albert Pujols and Scott Rolen and Jim Edmonds at the axis. The defense is first-rate, with Pujols and Rolen at the corners, Yadier Molina behind the plate, David Eckstein and Adam Kennedy up the middle and Edmonds in center.

The bullpen figures to be solid, with Jason Isringhausen to resume his role as closer. But Chris Carpenter is the only 2006 Opening Day starter who will be in the rotation when the '07 season begins. The remake will include a hodge-podge of journeymen, untested youngsters and spare parts. Pitching coach Dave Duncan is one of the best in the business. Barring a dramatic spring trade, he will have his work cut out for him in 2007. But if the rotation coagulates, the Cardinals, who have appeared in six of the past seven postseasons, will give it another go.


DAVID ECKSTEIN
shortstop

Rotation Carpenter is back as the anchor, and he is among the best in the National League, with 51 wins over the last three seasons. Former Pirate and Ranger Kip Wells was added through free agency. Three years ago, Wells was 11th in the league with a 3.28 ERA. The Cardinals believe the 29-year-old righthander has upside that belies his 57–74 career record. "I always felt like he had great ability and was a very interesting guy to watch," says Duncan. "There were signs of brilliance and sometimes mistakes that were made that weren't understandable." Last year's rookie standout, Adam Wainwright, figures to transfer from the bullpen to the rotation, which is where he began. Anthony Reyes and free agent acquisition Ryan Franklin will both get full-fledged chances to land a spot. Franklin started 94 games for Seattle from 2003-05. There also is a possibility that career reliever Braden Looper will change stripes, and lefty Mark Mulder, rehabilitating from season-ending shoulder surgery, is projected to be available sometime in July.

Bullpen Wainwright was a postseason star, closing in place of Isringhausen. But Izzy promises to be healthy and ready to resume his job after arthroscopic hip surgery. Pitching in pain most of last season, he managed 33 saves, fifth-best in the NL. "My arm felt great last year. That was hardly the problem," says Isringhausen, who has undergone two shoulder surgeries and two hip procedures since signing with the Cardinals in December 2001. The rest of the fire department is well-balanced. Lefties Tyler Johnson and Randy Flores had solid if unspectacular 2006 seasons. Free agent Russ Springer could take Wainwright's place. Late bloomer Josh Kinney pitched his way into the picture during the postseason, when he held opponents to a .189 average and fanned 22 in 25 innings.

Middle Infield Eckstein was the World Series MVP. He batted .292 during the season and committed only six errors in 123 games. He will be re-united with Kennedy, his former Angels double-play partner. Kennedy has a career .280 average and a .332 on-base percentage. He represents an upgrade from last year's season-starting combo of Aaron Miles and Hector Luna. "He's a clutch player; he always seems to come up in the big situation and come through," Eckstein says of Kennedy. "He's got the ability in a big game and at a big time to step up. He's a great fit."

Corners It's hard to imagine a better duo. Pujols won his first Gold Glove at first base in 2006 and finished second in the MVP balloting. Pujols has now finished fourth, second, second, third, first and second in the last six MVP races. Rolen is a seven-time Gold Glove winner who again led his position in fielding during '06. Rolen had 22 home runs and 95 runs batted in while returning from serious shoulder surgery. He might have won the Comeback Player of the Year Award if not for Nomar Garciaparra.

Outfield Edmonds re-signed with the Cardinals over the winter and will turn 37 in June. Bothered by post-concussion syndrome late last season, Edmonds also suffered uncharacteristic numbers, finishing with 19 home runs, 70 RBIs and a .257 average — his least productive season since 1999. Right fielder Juan Encarnacion rebounded from a dreadful start to hit .278 with 19 HRs. The Cardinals got a huge lift from rookie Chris Duncan, who hit 22 homers in 280 at-bats while sharing time. The man who beat Billy Wagner, So Taguchi, is back as a reliable extra hand. He figures to get 200 to 300 at bats once again.

STATLINE

Fewest RBIs in a Season, 22+ HRs

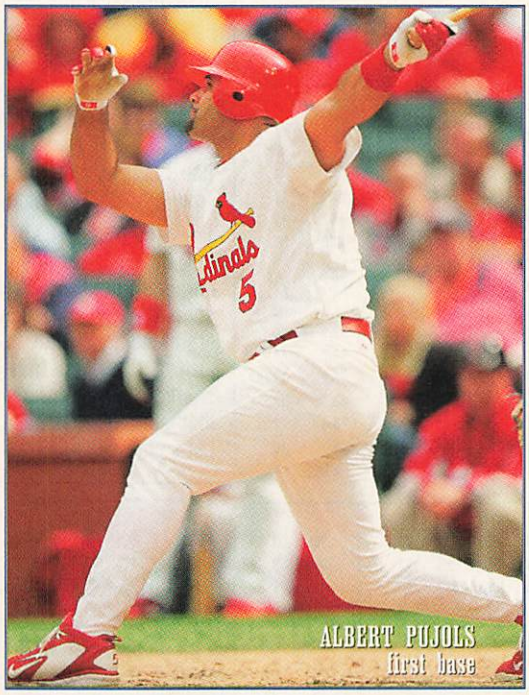
1.	**Chris Duncan**	**43 (2006)**
2.	Ruben Rivera	48 (1999)
3.	Ken Phelps	51 (1984)
4t.	Tony Conigliaro	52 (1964)
4t.	Bob Allison	52 (1968)

Catching Molina is the best throwing catcher in the majors, as witnessed by his 41 percent success rate in gunning down would-be base thieves. But while his .216 batting mark included 26 doubles, it was the lowest batting average in the NL among players with 400 at-bats. The Cardinals may have to consider the possibility of playing backup Gary Bennett more often in 2007.

Bench Scott Spiezio became an all-purpose weapon for the Cardinals, as he spent time both in the outfield and infield and started 61 games. Aaron Miles eventually lost out in the second base bonanza, but re-invented himself as a useful utility man by playing 39 games at shortstop. Taguchi lacks extra-base pop but is a sound fundamental outfielder. Left-handed swingers Skip Schumaker and John Rodriguez also will compete for a job.

Management The Cardinals were not especially active in a winter market they considered over-inflated. General manager Walt Jocketty made subtle-but-important moves during the summer, picking up eventual contributors Jeff Weaver and Preston Wilson off waiver lists. Jocketty will have to be creative again to shore up weaknesses in '07. Frustrated by high expectations and postseason disappointments in the past, manager Tony La Russa played the underdog role to the hilt last fall. Nothing was expected from a team that won only 83 regular-season games, but La Russa guided his club to a World Series win to get his second world championship ring. His intensity rubs some the wrong way, but no one is better prepared than La Russa, who does a marvelous job of utilizing his roster. Ditto for Duncan.

Final Analysis The Cardinals will start 2007 with an everyday lineup that is better than the one that started 2006. But their starting rotation is, at best, unproven. While teams like Chicago and Houston made dramatic moves in the free agent market, the Cardinals will still be the class of the division if they find enough stability in their starting rotation.



FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Albert Pujols
High-Dividend Hurler: Chris Carpenter
Buy Recommendation: Adam Wainwright
Sell Recommendation: Jim Edmonds
Medical (In)Securities: Jason Isringhausen
IPO: RHP Anthony Reyes
Futures Market: OF Colby Rasmus
Insider Tip: Chris Duncan will be this year's Brad Eldred.

STATISTICIAN

16 Runners picked off by catcher Yadier Molina the past two seasons, the most in the majors.
19 Team-leading hits in the postseason by Molina, who batted .216 during the regular season.
50 Strikeouts by Albert Pujols last year, one more than the amount of home runs he hit.
52 Number of RBIs by switch-hitting bench man Scott Spiezio in 276 at-bats last season.
14 Home runs hit by Pujols in April last year, a major league record.
19 Home runs hit in the second half of 2006 by rookie Chris Duncan.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Rookie **Adam Wainright** was 2–1 with three saves and 3.12 ERA in 61 regular season games last season. He struck out 72 in 75 innings and limited right-handed hitters to a .182 average. When closer Jason Isringhausen was disabled with a hip injury just before the playoffs started, Wainright stepped in and was fabulous as a postseason closer. He appeared in nine games, going 1–0 with four saves and 15 strikeouts while not allowing a run. Now, the Cardinals plan to move Wainright into the starting rotation, which is where he learned his trade in the minors. With his plus-fastball and 12-to-6 breaking ball, if he is as good in the rotation as he was in the bullpen, he will give the club another prominent weapon to go with Chris Carpenter.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

SS David Eckstein
Hopes to improve on a .255 BA with runners in scoring position.

LF Chris Duncan
Worked hard during the offseason to improve his defense.

CF Jim Edmonds
String of six consecutive Gold Gloves was snapped.

1B Albert Pujols
.671 slugging percentage in '06 was highest of his career.

3B Scott Rolen
Should be stronger another year removed from shoulder surgery.

2B Adam Kennedy
Won the World Series with the Angels and Eckstein in 2002.

RF Juan Encarnacion
Labored late in the season and postseason with bad wrist.

C Yadier Molina
A postseason hero, hopes to carry over productive bat.

BENCH

UT Scott Spiezio
Resurrected his career as a super sub.

OF So Taguchi
Good in the clutch, can play three outfield positions.

C Gary Bennett
Solid defensively and batted .400 against left-handed pitching.

INF Aaron Miles
Became more valuable by playing 39 games at SS and one at 3B.

OF John Rodriguez
Hit .301 between visits to Class AAA Memphis.

ROTATION

RHP Chris Carpenter
Won Cy Young in 2005 and finished third in voting last year.

RHP Kip Wells
Led the NL with a 2.12 home ERA for Pirates three years ago.

RHP Adam Wainright
Moves to rotation after successful season in the bullpen.

RHP Anthony Reyes
25-year-old righthander was unpredictable with a 5–8 record.

RHP Ryan Franklin
Is 23–44 in his three seasons as a full-time starter.

BULLPEN

RHP Jason Isringhausen
Should be ready after hip surgery; had 33 saves.

RHP Brad Thompson
Has worked out of the bullpen for the past two seasons.

RHP Braden Looper
Former closer has had a sub-4.00 ERA for six straight years.

RHP Josh Kinney
Held opponents to a .189 average in 25 postseason innings.

RHP Russ Springer
Had a 3.47 ERA in 72 appearances for Houston.

LHP Randy Flores
Lefty struggled with a 7.64 ERA at home.

LHP Tyler Johnson
Especially good at home, where he held batters to a .143 BA.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Tony La Russa **COACHES:** Dave Duncan, Marty Mason, Dave McKay, Hal McRae, Jose Oquendo, Joe Pettini

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
29	Chris Carpenter	R-R	4/27/75	**ST. LOUIS**	**15-8**	**3.09**	**32**	**0**	**221.2**	**184**
	Troy Cate	L-L	10/21/80	Springfield (AA)	1-1	0.57	10	1	15.2	20
				Palm Beach (A)	2-2	1.54	34	1	41.0	58
	Andy Cavazos	R-R	1/5/81	Memphis (AAA)	1-5	3.51	44	4	56.1	55
				Springfield (AA)	2-2	0.45	16	0	20.0	19
	Dennis Dove	R-R	8/31/81	Springfield (AA)	0-3	8.79	13	0	14.1	15
				Palm Beach (A)	3-3	2.81	41	4	51.1	56
	Brian Falkenborg	R-R	1/18/78	**ST. LOUIS**	**0-1**	**2.84**	**5**	**0**	**6.1**	**5**
				Memphis (AAA)	4-5	4.18	47	16	51.2	53
34	Randy Flores	L-L	7/31/75	**ST. LOUIS**	**1-1**	**5.62**	**65**	**0**	**41.2**	**40**
	Ryan Franklin	R-R	3/5/73	**PHILADELPHIA**	**1-5**	**4.58**	**46**	**0**	**53.0**	**35**
				CINCINNATI	**5-2**	**4.44**	**20**	**0**	**24.1**	**18**
32	Josh Hancock	R-R	4/11/78	**ST. LOUIS**	**3-3**	**4.09**	**62**	**1**	**77.0**	**50**
	Blake Hawksworth	R-R	3/1/83	Springfield (AA)	4-2	3.39	13	0	79.2	66
				Palm Beach (A)	7-2	2.47	14	0	83.2	55
44	Jason Isringhausen	R-R	9/7/72	**ST. LOUIS**	**4-8**	**3.55**	**59**	**33**	**58.1**	**52**
61	Tyler Johnson	S-L	6/7/81	**ST. LOUIS**	**2-4**	**4.95**	**56**	**0**	**36.1**	**37**
				Memphis (AAA)	0-0	8.64	8	0	8.1	8
	Randy Keisler	L-L	2/24/76	**OAKLAND**	**0-0**	**4.50**	**11**	**0**	**10.0**	**5**
				Sacramento (AAA)	9-5	3.83	25	0	103.1	82
52	Josh Kinney	R-R	3/31/79	**ST. LOUIS**	**0-0**	**3.24**	**21**	**0**	**25.0**	**22**
				Memphis (AAA)	2-2	1.52	51	3	71.0	76
41	Braden Looper	R-R	10/28/74	**ST. LOUIS**	**9-3**	**3.56**	**69**	**0**	**73.1**	**41**
30	Mark Mulder	L-L	8/5/77	**ST. LOUIS**	**5-7**	**4.40**	**17**	**0**	**93.1**	**50**
60	Chris Narveson	L-L	12/20/81	**ST. LOUIS**	**0-0**	**4.82**	**5**	**0**	**9.1**	**12**
				Memphis (AAA)	8-5	2.81	15	0	80.0	58
				Palm Beach (A)	0-0	2.12	3	0	17.0	13
23	Anthony Reyes	R-R	10/16/81	**ST. LOUIS**	**7-8**	**5.06**	**17**	**0**	**85.1**	**72**
				Memphis (AAA)	6-1	2.57	13	0	84.0	82
73	Ricardo Rincon	L-L	4/13/70	**ST. LOUIS**	**0-0**	**10.80**	**5**	**0**	**3.1**	**6**
	Russ Springer	R-R	11/7/68	**HOUSTON**	**1-1**	**3.47**	**72**	**0**	**59.7**	**46**
48	Brad Thompson	R-R	1/31/82	**ST. LOUIS**	**1-2**	**3.34**	**43**	**0**	**56.2**	**32**
				Memphis (AAA)	2-0	2.11	14	0	42.2	33
50	Adam Wainwright	R-R	8/30/81	**ST. LOUIS**	**2-1**	**3.12**	**61**	**3**	**75.0**	**72**
	Kip Wells	R-R	8/30/81	**PITTSBURGH**	**1-5**	**6.69**	**7**	**0**	**36.3**	**16**
				TEXAS	**1-0**	**5.62**	**2**	**0**	**8.0**	**4**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
28	Gary Bennett	R-R	4/17/72	**ST. LOUIS**	**.223**	**60**	**157**	**13**	**4**	**22**	**0**
	Michel Hernandez	R-R	8/12/78	Memphis (AAA)	.274	90	285	24	2	28	3
4	Yadier Molina	R-R	7/13/82	**ST. LOUIS**	**.216**	**129**	**417**	**29**	**6**	**49**	**1**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
22	David Eckstein	R-R	1/20/75	**ST. LOUIS**	**.292**	**123**	**500**	**68**	**2**	**23**	**7**
	Travis Hanson	L-R	1/24/81	Memphis (AAA)	.220	67	223	21	1	18	2
				Springfield (AA)	.226	65	252	21	2	20	1
	Adam Kennedy	L-R	1/10/76	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.273**	**139**	**451**	**50**	**4**	**55**	**16**
12	Aaron Miles	S-R	12/15/76	**ST. LOUIS**	**.263**	**135**	**426**	**48**	**2**	**30**	**2**
5	Albert Pujols	R-R	1/16/80	**ST. LOUIS**	**.331**	**143**	**535**	**119**	**49**	**137**	**7**
27	Scott Rolen	R-R	4/4/75	**ST. LOUIS**	**.296**	**142**	**521**	**94**	**22**	**95**	**7**
	Brendan Ryan	R-R	3/26/82	Memphis (AAA)	.154	7	26	4	1	6	0
				Springfield (AA)	.302	10	43	6	0	3	1
				State College (A)	.235	8	34	5	0	3	2
				Palm Beach (A)	.429	3	14	2	0	1	0
26	Scott Spiezio	S-R	9/21/72	**ST. LOUIS**	**.272**	**119**	**276**	**44**	**13**	**52**	**1**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
16	Chris Duncan	L-R	5/5/81	**ST. LOUIS**	**.293**	**90**	**280**	**60**	**22**	**43**	**0**
				Memphis (AAA)	.271	52	181	23	7	31	1
15	Jim Edmonds	L-L	6/27/70	**ST. LOUIS**	**.257**	**110**	**350**	**52**	**19**	**70**	**4**
43	Juan Encarnacion	R-R	3/8/76	**ST. LOUIS**	**.278**	**153**	**557**	**74**	**19**	**79**	**6**
	Reid Gorecki	R-R	12/22/80	Memphis (AAA)	.162	21	74	7	1	9	3
				Springfield (AA)	.251	85	327	56	16	51	17
	Cody Haerther	L-R	7/14/83	Springfield (AA)	.277	120	412	56	11	52	0
53	John Rodriguez	L-L	1/20/78	**ST. LOUIS**	**.301**	**102**	**183**	**31**	**2**	**19**	**0**
				Memphis (AAA)	.266	20	64	10	3	7	0
55	Skip Schumaker	L-R	2/3/80	**ST. LOUIS**	**.185**	**28**	**54**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**2**
				Memphis (AAA)	.306	95	369	47	3	27	11
99	So Taguchi	R-R	7/2/69	**ST. LOUIS**	**.266**	**134**	**316**	**46**	**2**	**31**	**11**

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

INSTANT CELEBRITY After winning the World Series MVP, David Eckstein had a whirlwind offseason. He made appearances on the "Tonight Show," published a children's book, appeared in a pay-per-view wrestling event, worked on behalf of organ donation, celebrated a first wedding anniversary, etc. "It's been absolutely crazy," Eckstein said after filming a public service announcement in Los Angeles. "But it's been fun. I don't see myself as a celebrity. I feel like I'm a regular person. If you meet me on the street, I hope you see the same thing…"

FULL COFFERS Bolstered by the franchise's first World Series title in 24 years, as well as its most successful fiscal campaign under current ownership, the team did not raise ticket prices for the 2007 season. The club drew 3,407,104 in their first season at the new Busch Stadium. The number would have been higher, but about 5,000 seats in left field were not available until May 29.

PEARLS OF WISDOM After he got the Oakland A's managing job, new manager Bob Geren called Cardinals skipper La Russa to seek advice during a breakfast meeting. "He respects a young manager trying to improve, and he said he asked Sparky Anderson many of the same things when he (La Russa) started managing," Geren told reporters. "I owe Tony a lot for the experience. What a great resource."

THEY LOVE A PARADE People stood 20 deep as some 500,000 honored the Cardinals with a post-World Series parade through downtown St. Louis. The parade featured school marching bands, Budweiser Clydesdales and the players standing in the backs of pickups. La Russa told the crowd: "I've been here a long time, and I think we've all shared a dream. And we can officially say that when we got that last out in Game 5, our championship dream came true. Let's enjoy it."

THE FARM SYSTEM

2006 Top Draft Pick

The Cardinals were the last team picking in the first round of 2006 draft and chose **Adam Ottavino**, a junior from Northeastern University. The organization hopes Ottavino, a thin 225 pounds at 6'5", will put on weight as he matures and potentially increase his already-good velocity. In 2006 at Northeastern, Ottavino had a modest 4–5 record, but featuring mostly a fastball and slider, he fanned 120 hitters in 93.2 innings and had an earned run average of 2.98. After signing, the righthander appeared in eight games for Midwest League affiliate, Quad Cities, going 2–3 with a 3.44 ERA and 38 strikeouts in 36.2 innings.

Prospects

CF Colby Rasmus Heir apparent to Jim Edmonds.
RHP Anthony Reyes Was considered "can't miss" before bouncing up and down last season.
RHP Blake Hawksworth 11–4 record and a 2.92 ERA between Class A Palm Beach and Class AA Springfield.
SS Brendan Ryan Shortstop advanced all the way from low Class A to Class AAA Memphis last summer.
LHP Jaime Garcia The 20-year-old lefthander was 10–8 with a 3.37 at Class A Quad Cities and Palm Beach.

Bill Mitchell

Arizona Diamondbacks

2007 Prediction: 3rd

2006 Finish: 76–86
NL West

The colors — red and black — are new, but a key old-timer returns. The Diamondbacks reacquired Randy Johnson to address their most glaring need, starting pitching, a move that could place them in the thick in the 2007 NL West race if Johnson, 43, continues his abject failure at acting his age. The D-Backs can pitch and play defense, a good starting point.

Rotation Johnson returns to the scene of his greatest team and individual successes after winning four NL Cy Young awards, a World Series ring and a World Series co-MVP award with the D-Backs from 1999-2004. Johnson had a career-worst 5.00 ERA with the Yankees in 2006, but the D-Backs believe that had more to do with a bad back (October disk surgery) and the AL East than Father Time. Johnson made all six Opening Day starts during his first stint in Arizona, but even if he is healthy that honor will likely go to Brandon Webb, the 2006 Cy Young winner. Webb won his first eight decisions and had a franchise-record 30 consecutive scoreless innings while earning his first All-Star berth. Livan Hernandez and newcomer Doug Davis, acquired from Milwaukee in the Johnny Estrada deal, also are 200-inning horses among a quartet that — with health — could approach 900 combined innings. Enrique Gonzalez, Edgar Gonzalez, newcomer Dana Eveland, Juan Cruz and minor leaguers Micah Owings and Dustin Nippert are the candidates for the No. 5 spot.

Bullpen With his mid-90s fastball, Jose Valverde is as dominant as it gets when he is on. When he is not — and no one seems know exactly what causes the Jekyll-Hyde — you can find him in Triple-A. Valverde is the nominal closer, but others are available. Tony Pena also showed end-of-game stuff at times in his rookie year and could work his way into that role, perhaps sooner rather than later, and Jorge Julio has had off-and-on success there, too. Brandon Lyon and Brandon Medders are competent setup men, while rookie Doug Slaten showed an aptitude for the left-handed specialist role in a late-season audition last year. The candidates who fall out of contention for the No. 5 starting job will join the mix for the remaining spot in the bullpen.

BRANDON WEBB
pitcher

Paul Jasienski/Getty Images

Middle Infield Gold Glove-winning second baseman Orlando Hudson and shortstop Stephen Drew are outstanding defensive players with terrific range and the arm to make all the throws, and they make sinker-balling specialist Webb even better. Hudson had career offensive highs in hits, runs, doubles, triples, homers, RBIs, stolen bases and walks in his first season in the NL in 2006 and has a grind-it-out mentality that will not permit him to rest on success. Drew, whom scouts considered the best position player available in the 2004 draft before he fell to the D-Backs at No. 15 because of signability concerns, showed big pop at a non-traditional power position after being recalled last July. He opened his major league career with a nine-game hitting streak and ran off a 13-game streak later in the season.

Corners Homegrown Chad Tracy and Conor Jackson, a former No. 1 draft choice, will occupy the middle of the order, and while neither has shown big-

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

LF Eric Byrnes
Hit just .232 after July; kills righties at .323 clip.

2B Orlando Hudson
Gold Glover who hit .338 against lefties.

1B Conor Jackson
Hit .326 the final two months of rookie year.

3B Chad Tracy
Has 104 doubles, 55 homers in first three seasons.

RF Carlos Quentin
Four homers in his first 16 major league ABs.

SS Stephen Drew
Former first-rounder can hit, run, catch, throw.

CF Chris Young
Athletic speedster gets on-the-job training.

C Chris Snyder
Pitchers love seeing him behind the plate.

BENCH

C Miguel Montero
Minor league numbers translate into job with the big club.

1B Tony Clark
30 homers in '05, balky shoulder in '06.

INF Alberto Callaspo
All-Star in all five minor league seasons.

OF Jeff DaVanon
Switch-hitter loves righthanders (.308), hates lefties (.205).

OF Scott Hairston
A major league bat in injury-plagued career.

ROTATION

RHP Brandon Webb
Devastating sinker produces grounder after grounder.

LHP Randy Johnson
His 34 wins last two years were considered a disappointment.

RHP Livan Hernandez
One of three with 30-plus starts last nine years.

LHP Doug Davis
Bullpen blew five saves behind him in Milwaukee last year.

RHP Enrique Gonzalez
Athletic strike-thrower will be in a battle for the fifth spot.

BULLPEN

RHP Jose Valverde
14 saves through May 24, four thereafter.

RHP Juan Cruz
Better-suited to short bursts with mid-90s heat.

LHP Doug Slaten
Nine scoreless appearances in September recall.

RHP Brandon Medders
Limited right-handed hitters to a .196 batting average.

RHP Tony Pena
Jumped from AA to the majors by throwing strikes.

RHP Jorge Julio
Closer's stuff, although inconsistency is a problem.

RHP Brandon Lyon
Four-pitch pitcher best suited to a setup role.

bopper power each can drive the ball in the gaps and produce with runners on. Overshadowed by others among a strong 2006 NL rookie class, Jackson quietly had a solid season while developing into an adequate first baseman in his first full season at the position. His home run total should increase as he gains experience. Tracy was the victim of increased expectations and increased opponents' awareness last year after a breakout 2005, but he still had 61 extra-base hits and 80 RBIs. He played with a subtle knee problem most of '06, which may have contributed to his 26 errors.

Outfield Gone is fixture Luis Gonzalez, but the D-Backs will compensate by moving Eric Byrnes from center field to left and serving youth with Chris Young in center and Carlos Quentin in right. Byrnes revived his career after a disjointed 2005 and was one of three NL players with at least 25 home runs and 25 stolen bases in 2006, joining Alfonso Soriano and Jimmy Rollins. Young, the principal acquisition in the deal that sent Javier Vazquez to the White Sox in the winter of '05, showed spectacular defense in a brief look last season and averaged 25 homers and 31 stolen bases in the minors in 2004 and '05. Quentin, another former No. 1 draft choice, homered in his major league debut July 20 and is an aggressive defender. He also is a ball-magnet — he was hit by 43 pitches in '04, 29 in '05 and 39 in '06.

Catching The D-Backs entrusted their veteran staff to youngsters Chris Snyder and Miguel Montero with the trade of offensive threat Johnny Estrada to Milwaukee. Snyder is a top defender and game-caller, and he found an offensive approach that produced 32 RBIs in 61 games while using all fields as a part-timer in 2006. Montero could play at least half of the time and showed a big bat while moving quickly up the organizational ladder the last two years.

Bench Jeff DaVanon is a valuable fourth outfielder who runs well, has occasional power and can play all three spots. Tony Clark, the team MVP with 30 home runs in 2005, returns after September shoulder surgery to correct an injury that hampered him most of 2006. Alberto Callaspo, who can play second base, shortstop and third base, will be the top reserve at all three positions after being named the organization's Minor League Player of the Year. Scott Hairston has shown he can hit, but fluke injuries have dogged him for two years.

Management GM Josh Byrnes and his analytical staff addressed a weakness in the rotation by dealing from areas of strength this offseason, an M.O. that serves to create value, especially consequential for a team on a budget. In his second year on the job, Byrnes has made all the right moves — signing franchise building blocks Webb and Tracy to long-term contracts and acquiring Hudson, Byrnes and now Johnson and Davis. He is a man with a plan, and management has let him know there will be more money to work with in the future.

Final Analysis The D-Backs will commit about $65 million on salary this season, although that includes the $12.25 million due to the departed Russ Ortiz and Shawn Green. Despite that constraint, they have built a solid rotation, the critical launch point for success. Their young position group is bound to suffer growing pains, but the athletic ability is there. The D-Backs are building for 2008 and beyond, but if the youngsters' learning curve is accelerated, they could contend this season.

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Stephen Drew
High-Dividend Hurler: Brandon Webb
Buy Recommendation: Conor Jackson
Sell Recommendation: Eric Byrnes
Medical (In)Securities: Randy Johnson
IPO: OF Chris Young
Futures Market: C Miguel Montero
Insider Tip: Grab any starter at a nice price; most will be undervalued.

STATLINE

Most Consecutive .500 Pitching Records

1. Doug Davis	**3**
2t. Phil Ortega	2
2t. Dave Goetz	2
2t. Orel Hershiser	2
2t. Bruce Hurst	2

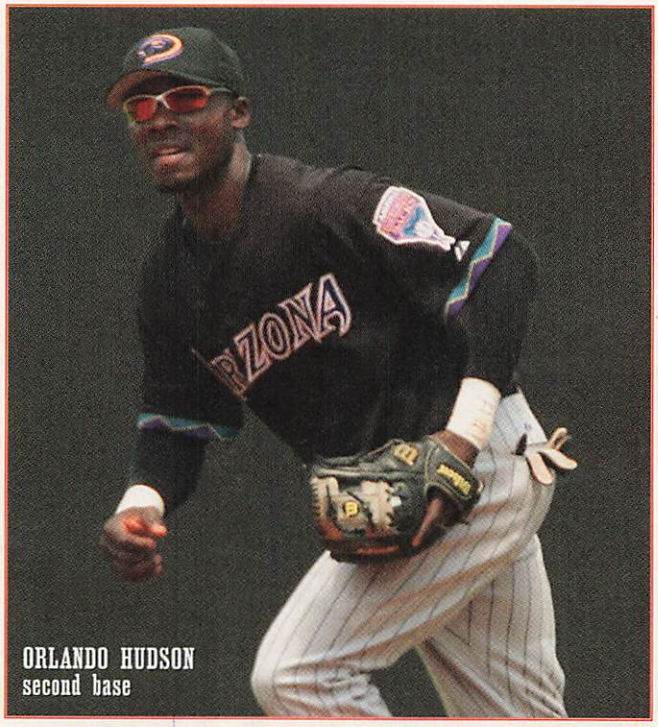
(minimum 30 starts)

STATISTICIAN

280 Career victories by Randy Johnson, fourth among active pitchers.
6 Non-sinkers Brandon Webb threw in a 95-pitch, 3–0 shutout of St. Louis on Sept. 9.
8–0 Webb's record to begin the 2006 season, a franchise record.
11.6 Jose Valverde's average strikeouts per nine innings, fourth among active hurlers.
160 Home runs hit by the D-Backs last year, 13th in the NL.
.462 Chad Tracy's batting average with the bases loaded last year.
60 Strikeouts Johnson needs to catch Roger Clemens for No. 2 all-time.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Randy Johnson was the difference maker in his previous six years with his hometown D-Backs, and his dominance was reflected in every facet of the game — from less pressure on the offense to more rest for the bullpen to a greater confidence all the way around. Johnson was 103–49 with four Cy Young awards in six D-Backs' seasons from 1999-2004 despite missing half of the 2003 season with a right knee injury. If he is anywhere near his former self, he could lift the entire team. After all, Johnson did win 17 games in each of the last two seasons in the competitive AL East, and partly with a balky back.



ORLANDO HUDSON
second base

Hudson: Rich Pilling/MLB/Getty Images; Scherzer: Rich Abel

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

GOLDEN BOY Orlando Hudson became the fourth infielder in major league history to win consecutive Gold Gloves in different leagues, but his play on the field hardly defines him. Hudson has begun a program to support autistic children in Phoenix and would like to establish a school for autistic children at home in South Carolina. "All they want is a hug and to be loved like everybody else," Hudson says.

WILD MAN He surfs (do not tell the D-Backs). He drives a tricked-out van equipped with a wide screen TV in back that has been dubbed the shaggin' wagon. He does live network TV with a hair-do that is more hair-don't. Yet Eric Byrnes can play. He set career highs in homers (26) and stolen bases (25) last season, one of three 25-25 guys in the NL last year. Alfonso Soriano and Jimmy Rollins were the others.

DISTRACTION The continued federal investigation into illegal performance-enhancing drugs in baseball seemed a major contributor in a D-Backs' free-fall that began in early June, after unsealed court records indicated then D-Backs reliever Jason Grimsley admitted using illegal drugs and named others. The D-Backs were 3–20 from June 5-29, the worst streak in the major leagues since Detroit opened the 2003 season 3–25.

18 IS TOO MUCH With free agent author/poet starter/reliever Miguel Batista now pitching in Seattle, the D-Backs may avoid another 18-inning game, of which they have played two in franchise history, both involving Batista. He started the D-Backs' 2–1, 18-inning victory over Colorado on Aug. 18, 2006, after getting the victory with three innings of relief in a 1–0, 18-inning victory at San Francisco on May 29, 2001.

THE FARM SYSTEM

2006 Top Draft Pick

Max Scherzer was the 11th player selected in the 2006 draft and the last player to sign … if he, indeed, ever comes to terms with the D-Backs. A righthander from the University of Missouri, Scherzer has a mid-90s fastball, and scouts say he projects as either a starter or a back of the bullpen reliever. However his status is finally resolved, he will be a dinosaur, the last of his kind — terms of the new collective bargaining agreement say that if a draft pick is not signed by Aug. 15 of his draft year, he will go back in the pool.

Prospects

OF Carlos Gonzalez He was the low-A Midwest League MVP at age 19 in 2005 and a high-A California League All-Star at age 20 in 2006.

CF Justin Upton The first overall pick in the 2005 draft, Upton's bat will play anywhere.

RHP Micah Owings He was 16–2 combined at Double-A and Triple-A last season.

INF Mark Reynolds While his position has not been defined, Reynolds has a big-time power bat.

RHP Dustin Nippert Equipped with a power package of a low-90s fastball and sharp slider, Nippert tied for the Pacific Coast League lead with 13 victories in 2006.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Bob Melvin **COACHES:** Kirk Gibson, Chip Hale, Bryan Price, Kevin Seitzer, Glenn Sherlock, Lee Tinsley

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
37	Juan Cruz	R-R	10/15/78	**ARIZONA**	**5-6**	**4.18**	**31**	**0**	**94.2**	**88**
				Tucson (AAA)	0-0	2.70	1	0	3.1	4
54	Casey Daigle	R-R	4/4/81	**ARIZONA**	**0-0**	**3.65**	**10**	**0**	**12.1**	**7**
				Tucson (AAA)	3-5	4.69	42	11	48.0	41
49	Doug Davis	R-L	9/21/75	**MILWAUKEE**	**11-11**	**4.91**	**34**	**0**	**203.1**	**159**
	Dana Eveland	L-L	2/5/77	**MILWAUKEE**	**0-3**	**8.13**	**9**	**0**	**27.2**	**32**
				Nashville (AAA)	6-5	2.74	20	0	105.0	110
31	Edgar Gonzalez	R-R	2/23/83	**ARIZONA**	**3-4**	**4.22**	**11**	**0**	**42.2**	**28**
				Tucson (AAA)	3-8	3.90	24	0	138.1	107
	Enrique Gonzalez	R-R	7/14/82	**ARIZONA**	**3-7**	**5.67**	**22**	**0**	**106.1**	**66**
				Tucson (AAA)	4-3	2.24	10	0	60.1	35
61	Livan Hernandez	R-R	2/20/75	**ARIZONA**	**4-5**	**3.76**	**10**	**0**	**69.1**	**39**
				WASHINGTON	**9-8**	**5.34**	**24**	**0**	**146.2**	**89**
41	Randy Johnson	L-L	9/10/63	**NEW YORK AL**	**17-11**	**5.00**	**33**	**0**	**205.0**	**172**
50	Jorge Julio	R-R	3/3/79	**ARIZONA**	**1-2**	**3.83**	**44**	**15**	**44.2**	**55**
				NEW YORK NL	**1-2**	**5.06**	**18**	**1**	**21.1**	**33**
38	Brandon Lyon	R-R	8/10/79	**ARIZONA**	**2-4**	**3.89**	**68**	**0**	**69.1**	**46**
	Evan MacLane	L-L	11/4/82	Tucson (AAA)	1-0	3.38	2	0	8.0	4
				Norfolk (AAA)	9-8	3.86	20	0	121.1	67
				Binghamton (AA)	3-1	4.64	6	0	33.0	25
28	Brandon Medders	R-R	1/26/80	**ARIZONA**	**5-3**	**3.64**	**60**	**0**	**71.2**	**47**
				Tucson (AAA)	0-1	1.50	5	0	6.0	9
57	Dustin Nippert	R-R	5/6/81	**ARIZONA**	**0-2**	**11.70**	**2**	**0**	**10.0**	**9**
				Tucson (AAA)	13-8	4.87	25	0	140.1	130
	Jailen Peguero	R-R	1/4/81	Round Rock (AAA)	1-2	3.47	21	1	36.1	30
				Corpus Christi (AA)	2-0	0.70	27	14	38.2	48
56	Tony Peña	R-R	1/9/82	**ARIZONA**	**3-4**	**5.58**	**25**	**1**	**30.2**	**21**
				Tucson (AAA)	3-1	1.71	24	7	26.1	21
				Tennessee (AA)	2-0	0.89	17	6	20.1	17
62	Mike Schultz	R-R	11/28/79	Tucson (AAA)	2-4	3.52	49	4	53.2	41
				Tennessee (AA)	1-0	1.54	9	3	11.2	7
63	Doug Slaten	L-L	2/4/80	**ARIZONA**	**0-0**	**0.00**	**9**	**0**	**5.2**	**3**
				Tucson (AAA)	2-1	0.45	18	2	20.0	21
				Tennessee (AA)	2-3	1.88	40	8	43.0	59
47	Jose Valverde	R-R	7/24/79	**ARIZONA**	**2-3**	**5.84**	**44**	**18**	**49.1**	**69**
				Tucson (AAA)	1-0	3.06	15	3	17.2	18
17	Brandon Webb	R-R	5/9/79	**ARIZONA**	**16-8**	**3.10**	**33**	**0**	**235.0**	**178**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
7	Robby Hammock	R-R	5/13/77	**ARIZONA**	**.500**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Tucson (AAA)	.290	103	369	57	20	65	2
60	Miguel Montero	L-R	7/9/83	**ARIZONA**	**.250**	**6**	**16**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**0**
				Tucson (AAA)	.321	36	134	21	7	29	1
				Tennessee (AA)	.270	81	289	24	10	46	0
19	Chris Snyder	R-R	2/12/81	**ARIZONA**	**.277**	**61**	**184**	**19**	**6**	**32**	**0**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
11	Brian Barden	R-R	4/2/81	Tucson (AAA)	.298	128	494	80	16	96	1
	Emilio Bonifacio	R-R	4/23/85	Lancaster (A)	.321	130	546	117	7	15	61
44	Alberto Callaspo	S-R	4/19/83	**ARIZONA**	**.238**	**23**	**42**	**2**	**0**	**6**	**0**
				Tucson (AAA)	.337	114	490	93	7	68	8
34	Tony Clark	S-R	6/15/72	**ARIZONA**	**.197**	**79**	**132**	**13**	**6**	**16**	**0**
				Tucson (AAA)	.333	2	6	2	1	1	0
6	Stephen Drew	L-R	3/16/83	**ARIZONA**	**.316**	**59**	**209**	**27**	**5**	**23**	**2**
				Tucson (AAA)	.284	83	342	55	13	51	3
	Alberto Gonzalez	R-R	4/18/83	Tucson (AAA)	.200	4	15	2	0	1	0
				Tennessee (AA)	.290	129	434	67	6	50	5
10	Andy Green	R-R	7/7/77	**ARIZONA**	**.186**	**73**	**86**	**15**	**1**	**6**	**1**
				Tucson (AAA)	.240	18	75	10	1	6	0
1	Orlando Hudson	S-R	12/12/77	**ARIZONA**	**.287**	**157**	**579**	**87**	**15**	**67**	**9**
16	Conor Jackson	R-R	5/7/82	**ARIZONA**	**.291**	**140**	**485**	**75**	**15**	**79**	**1**
	Danny Richar	L-R	6/9/83	Tennessee (AA)	.292	130	480	79	8	42	50
18	Chad Tracy	L-R	5/22/80	**ARIZONA**	**.281**	**154**	**597**	**91**	**20**	**80**	**5**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
22	Eric Byrnes	R-R	2/16/76	**ARIZONA**	**.267**	**143**	**562**	**82**	**26**	**79**	**25**
30	Jeff DaVanon	S-R	12/8/73	**ARIZONA**	**.290**	**87**	**221**	**38**	**5**	**35**	**10**
	Carlos Gonzalez	L-L	10/17/85	Tennessee (AA)	.213	18	61	11	2	5	1
				Lancaster (A)	.300	104	403	82	21	94	15
9	Scott Hairston	R-R	5/25/80	**ARIZONA**	**.400**	**9**	**15**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**0**
				Tucson (AAA)	.323	98	381	83	26	81	3
	Dave Krynzel	L-L	11/7/81	Nashville (AAA)	.231	116	359	49	7	40	23
7	Carlos Quentin	R-R	8/28/82	**ARIZONA**	**.253**	**57**	**166**	**23**	**9**	**32**	**1**
				Tucson (AAA)	.289	85	318	66	9	52	5
24	Chris Young	R-R	9/5/83	**ARIZONA**	**.243**	**30**	**70**	**10**	**2**	**10**	**2**
				Tucson (AAA)	.276	100	402	78	21	77	17

Colorado Rockies

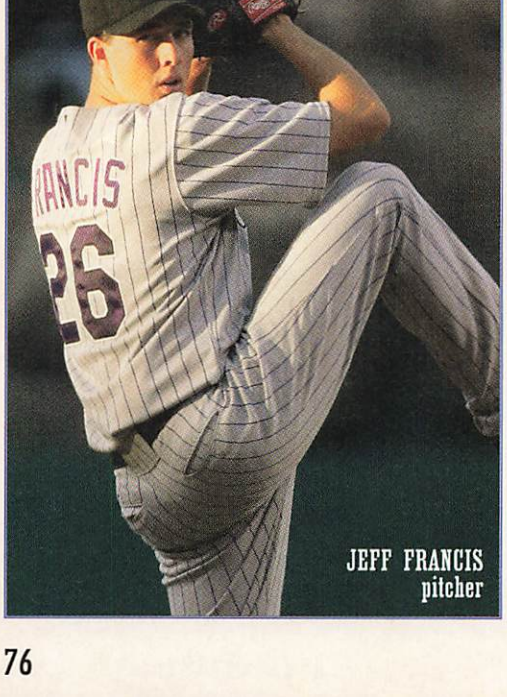
2007 Prediction: 5th

2006 Finish: 76–86

NL West

The Rockies need to leap forward and make a statement in the up-for-grabs NL West after finishing last year with 76 wins, a gain of nine. They stayed in the race until the All-Star break but then tailed off sharply as the weight of expectations, a very different reality for the players, proved overwhelming. Nonetheless, the team's build-from-within approach has gained traction, with more help expected this year as the Rockies try to end their string of six consecutive losing seasons. It's realistic for that to happen. If not, GM Dan O'Dowd and manager Clint Hurdle could pay with their jobs.

Rotation The departure of durable Jason Jennings means Aaron Cook, 28, and lefthander Jeff Francis, 26, are more vital to the rotation's success. Francis has won 27 games in his first two major league seasons, and Hurdle says, "He challenges himself as well as any player that I've run across." Cook has expanded his repertoire beyond his daunting sinker and has the stuff to be a big winner in what will be his second full season in the majors. But he must be more consistent. The Rockies hope a change of scenery will help re-energize Rodrigo Lopez, who was acquired from Baltimore for two minor leaguers in mid-January. He has won 14 games or more three times in a season since 2002. Jason Hirsch, acquired from Houston in the trade that sent Jennings to the Astros, projects to be a front-of-the-rotation starter, but he has limited major league experience. He should be a work in progress this year before fully blossoming. Sidearming Byung-Hyun Kim has become more adept at pitching inside and not relying excessively on his slider. He's a veteran presence at the back of the rotation, capable of being very good or struggling in any given outing.


JEFF FRANCIS
pitcher

Bullpen Closer Brian Fuentes, who begins his third season in that role, has given the Rockies a ninth-inning anchor. To get to him, the Rockies signed veteran LaTroy Hawkins, a proven setup man who thrives on pitching the eighth. Ramon Ramirez and Manny Corpas were promoted during the season and were bright spots last year, although Ramirez, who spent almost the entire year with the Rockies, wore down in the final two months. Situational lefthander Tom Martin was far more effective on the road but proved durable. Veteran Danny Graves will try to make the team in spring training — he can opt out of his contract if he doesn't — as will lefthander Mike Gallo and Dave Veres, who is attempting a comeback at age 40 after hip-replacement surgery. Veres has been out of the game for three years.

Middle Infield The Rockies brought up shortstop Troy Tulowitzki in late August and put him in the lineup with an eye toward preparing him to play regularly this year. He is solid defensively and figures to bring offense to a position that lacked it last year with Clint Barmes. Second baseman Kaz Matsui joined the Rockies for the final five weeks of the season and was impressive in the field and with the bat. Jamey Carroll, who made fewer errors than any second baseman in the league last year, will spell Matsui at second base against left-handed pitchers and see some time at shortstop and third base this year.

Corners Third baseman Garrett Atkins hit .354 after the All-Star break on his way to a superb offensive season. He led all National League third basemen with 120 RBIs and hit .341 with runners in scoring position. A defensive liability when he came to the big leagues, Atkins has developed into an average major league third baseman. First baseman Todd Helton will be trying to rebound from his worst season, although he still hit .302 with 40 doubles and 94 runs scored. Weakened by a serious intestinal infection that hospitalized him in April, Helton never regained the weight he lost and should be stronger and more determined this season.

Outfield Center fielder Willy Taveras brings speed to the top of the lineup, albeit with virtually no power. He has good range, an average arm and has improved his routes. Left fielder Matt Holliday is below average on defense but has extraordinary power and has developed into a potent clean-up hitter. Right fielder Brad Hawpe has a strong, accurate arm and adequate range. The left-handed-hitting Hawpe has a natural lift in his swing and plus power. He can make a greater impact by cutting his strikeout rate of one every 4.1 at-bats. Hawpe has fared much better against right-handed pitchers, and the Rockies have a viable alternative against lefties in right-handed hitting Jeff Baker.

Catching The Rockies are very high on rookie Chris Iannetta, who spent the final month with the team last year and did nothing to hurt his stock. He's disciplined at the plate, has decent power and can hit for average and is solid defensively. Iannetta, Yorvit Torrealba and Javy Lopez will compete for two spots on the roster. Torrealba was sidelined for long periods twice last year with a strained right shoulder that now appears sound. At 36, Lopez is try-

STATLINE

Most NL RBIs Since 2005 All-Star Game

1.	Ryan Howard	201
2.	Andruw Jones	190
3t.	Lance Berkman	185
3t.	Albert Pujols	185
5.	**Matt Holliday**	**178**

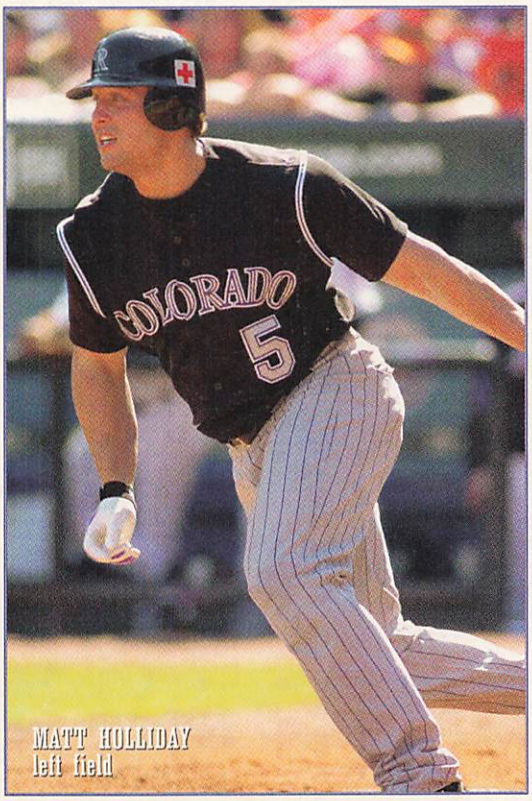
Francis: Jeff Gross/Getty Images; Holliday: Steve Moore

ing to revive his career and showed the Rockies his commitment to doing that by working out intensively with one of the team's minor league managers before signing.

Bench Alexis Gomez should add some left-handed hitting punch, which was absent last year, and can play all three outfield positions. Baker is a right-handed hitter who opened the Rockies' eyes with a remarkable September. He should share time with Hawpe in right, but he can also play left field and all infield positions. Carroll will fill a super-utility role and see action at third base, shortstop and possibly the outfield in addition to second base, his natural position. Cory Sullivan, Ryan Spilborghs and Choo Freeman will compete for an outfield spot.

Management O'Dowd and Hurdle are both entering the final years of their contracts. Owners Dick and Charlie Monfort have said they expect improvement over last year, without being specific on a final victory total. While the owners continue to believe the club is headed in the right direction and will be successful, this is the first time they have come close to putting O'Dowd and Hurdle on notice.

Final Analysis The Rockies' farm system is deeper than ever. Homegrown players like Holliday, Atkins and Hawpe have made an impact in the majors, and the beginning of a second wave has started to surface from the minors in players like Ramirez, Corpas, Tulowitzki, Iannetta and Baker, with more on the way. It's imperative that the Rockies keep developing players. With skyrocketing salaries and a payroll that ultimately is not expected to rise much above $70 million, the organization will always face the financial reality of having to trade a key player as he nears free agency for several younger ones to fill multiple needs. It happened after last season with Jennings and could happen after this year with Holliday.



MATT HOLLIDAY
left field

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Matt Holliday
High-Dividend Hurler: Brian Fuentes
Buy Recommendation: Willy Taveras
Sell Recommendation: Jamey Carroll
Medical (In)Securities: Todd Helton
IPO: SS Troy Tulowitzki
Futures Market: C Chris Iannetta
Insider Tip: Rox have two draftable starters (Jeff Francis, Aaron Cook) for first time ever

STATISTICIAN

0 Rockies who have stolen more than 14 bases in any of the past four seasons. Newcomer Willy Taveras stole 33 last year and 34 in 2005 for Houston.
4.66 ERA for the Rockies last year, the lowest in the franchise's 14-year history.
102 Hits after the All-Star break for Garrett Atkins, tied for the most in the majors.
21 RBIs in 17 September games for Jeff Baker, who slugged .839 for the month.
18–8 Lifetime record at Coors Field for Jeff Francis compared to 12–17 on the road.
.476 Slugging percentage for Todd Helton, a career-low last year.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Shortstop **Troy Tulowitzki**, the seventh overall pick in the June 2005 draft, got a taste of the majors late last year, hitting .240 with 96 at-bats in 25 games, and then did very well in the Arizona Fall League. His plate discipline improved greatly last year at Double-A and should get better as he settles in with the Rockies as their regular shortstop. Tulowitzki has the power and strength to hit 25 or more homers, along with good range and a well above-average arm that he sometimes relies on too often when making routine plays. Tulowitzki is 6'3" and 205 pounds but doesn't sacrifice any agility or athleticism in the middle of the diamond because of his size.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

CF Willy Taveras
Career .329 on-base percentage will rise in spacious Coors.

2B Kaz Matsui
Hit safely in 20 of 24 starts with Rockies last year.

3B Garrett Atkins
Never struck out more than twice in a game.

LF Matt Holliday
Joined Todd Helton as the only Rockies draft picks to hit 30 HRs.

1B Todd Helton
Lifetime .333 average is highest among active players.

RF Brad Hawpe
Hit .303 and 16 of his 22 home runs on the road.

SS Troy Tulowitzki
Third-youngest position player in franchise history.

C Chris Iannetta
Lifetime on-base percentage in minors is .410.

BENCH

INF Jamey Carroll
Hit .375 at Coors Field and .220 on the road.

OF Jeff Baker
Had at least one extra-base hit in seven of his 10 starts.

OF Alexis Gomez
At 28 is either poised to blossom or be typecast as a 4A player.

SS Clint Barmes
.220 BA was lowest in majors for players with enough at-bats.

C Yorbit Torrealba
Had 43 RBIs in 65 games last year.

ROTATION

RHP Aaron Cook
Had ground ball to fly ball ratio of 2.77, third-best in the NL.

LHP Jeff Francis
Has more victories (30) than any lefty pitcher in club history.

RHP Rodrigo Lopez
Started three of the Orioles' past four openers.

RHP Jason Hirsh
Went 2–1, 3.58 in final six outings for Houston.

RHP Byung-Hyun Kim
Left-handed batters hit .325 against his sidearm delivery.

BULLPEN

LHP Brian Fuentes
Averaged 10.57 K/9 IP in the closer's role the past two years.

RHP LaTroy Hawkins
Allowed more hits (73) than innings pitched (60.1) last year.

RHP Ramon Ramirez
Appeared in 61 games, third-most ever by a Rockies rookie.

RHP Manny Corpas
Allowed just five of 29 inherited runners to score in 35 games.

RHP Josh Fogg
Will have an opportunity to earn a spot in the rotation.

RHP Taylor Buchholz
Mid-90s fastball complements at-times devastating curveball.

COLORADO ROCKIES

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Clint Hurdle **COACHES:** Brad Andress, Bob Apodaca, Alan Cockrell, Mike Gallego, Glenallen Hill, Rick Mathews, Jamie Quirk

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
41	Jeremy Affeldt	L-L	6/6/79	**COLORADO**	**4-2**	**6.91**	**27**	**1**	**27.1**	**20**
				KANSAS CITY	**4-6**	**5.91**	**27**	**0**	**70.0**	**28**
54	Denny Bautista	R-R	8/23/80	**COLORADO**	**0-1**	**5.40**	**4**	**0**	**6.2**	**5**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	1-4	4.50	6	0	36.0	35
				KANSAS CITY	**0-2**	**5.66**	**8**	**0**	**35.0**	**22**
				Omaha (AAA)	2-5	7.36	10	0	44.0	28
	Taylor Buchholz	R-R	10/13/81	**HOUSTON**	**6-10**	**5.89**	**22**	**0**	**113.0**	**77**
				Round Rock (AAA)	1-3	4.91	7	0	44.0	37
	Darren Clarke	R-R	3/18/81	Modesto (A)	1-1	1.35	25	5	26.2	37
28	Aaron Cook	R-R	2/8/79	**COLORADO**	**9-15**	**4.23**	**32**	**0**	**212.2**	**92**
60	Manuel Corpas	R-R	12/3/82	**COLORADO**	**1-2**	**3.62**	**35**	**0**	**32.1**	**27**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	0-0	1.04	8	0	8.2	7
				Tulsa (AA)	2-1	0.98	34	19	36.2	35
37	Josh Fogg	R-R	12/13/76	**COLORADO**	**11-9**	**5.49**	**31**	**0**	**172.0**	**93**
26	Jeff Francis	L-L	1/8/81	**COLORADO**	**13-11**	**4.16**	**32**	**0**	**199.0**	**117**
40	Brian Fuentes	L-L	8/9/75	**COLORADO**	**3-4**	**3.44**	**66**	**30**	**65.1**	**73**
	LaTroy Hawkins	R-R	12/21/72	**BALTIMORE**	**3-2**	**4.48**	**60**	**0**	**60.1**	**27**
	Jason Hirsh	R-R	2/20/82	**HOUSTON**	**3-4**	**6.04**	**9**	**0**	**44.2**	**29**
				Round Rock (AAA)	13-2	2.10	23	0	137.1	118
38	Ubaldo Jimenez	R-R	1/22/84	**COLORADO**	**0-0**	**3.52**	**2**	**0**	**7.2**	**3**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	5-2	5.06	13	0	78.1	64
				Tulsa (AA)	9-2	2.45	13	0	73.1	86
48	Byung-Hyun Kim	R-R	1/19/79	**COLORADO**	**8-12**	**5.57**	**27**	**0**	**155.0**	**129**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	0-1	6.23	3	0	13.0	11
19	Rodrigo Lopez	R-R	12/14/75	**BALTIMORE**	**9-18**	**5.90**	**36**	**0**	**189.0**	**136**
	Tom Martin	L-L	5/21/70	**COLORADO**	**2-0**	**5.07**	**68**	**0**	**60.1**	**46**
68	Juan Morillo	R-R	11/5/83	**COLORADO**	**0-0**	**15.75**	**1**	**0**	**4.0**	**4**
				Tulsa (AA)	12-8	4.62	27	0	140.1	132
61	Ramon Ramirez	R-R	8/31/81	**COLORADO**	**4-3**	**3.46**	**61**	**0**	**67.2**	**61**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	0-0	0.00	1	0	1.0	1
	Ryan Speier	R-R	7/24/79	Did Not Play						

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
55	Alvin Colina	R-R	12/26/81	**COLORADO**	**.200**	**2**	**5**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**
				Tulsa (AA)	.254	92	323	45	12	46	3
20	Chris Iannetta	R-R	4/8/83	**COLORADO**	**.260**	**21**	**77**	**12**	**2**	**10**	**0**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	.351	47	151	23	3	22	0
				Tulsa (AA)	.321	44	156	38	11	26	1
	Javy Lopez	R-R	11/5/70	**BALTIMORE**	**.265**	**76**	**279**	**30**	**8**	**31**	**0**
				BOSTON	**.190**	**18**	**63**	**6**	**0**	**4**	**0**
8	Yorvit Torrealba	R-R	7/19/78	**COLORADO**	**.247**	**65**	**223**	**23**	**7**	**43**	**4**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	.167	10	36	0	0	2	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
27	Garrett Atkins	R-R	12/12/79	**COLORADO**	**.329**	**157**	**602**	**117**	**29**	**120**	**4**
12	Clint Barmes	R-R	3/6/79	**COLORADO**	**.220**	**131**	**478**	**57**	**7**	**56**	**5**
1	Jamey Carroll	R-R	2/18/74	**COLORADO**	**.300**	**136**	**463**	**84**	**5**	**36**	**10**
4	Luis Gonzalez	R-R	6/26/79	**COLORADO**	**.242**	**61**	**149**	**7**	**2**	**14**	**1**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	.268	27	97	15	2	10	1
17	Todd Helton	L-L	8/20/73	**COLORADO**	**.302**	**145**	**546**	**94**	**15**	**81**	**3**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	.333	2	6	0	0	0	0
	Jonathan Herrera	S-R	11/3/84	Modesto (A)	.310	127	487	87	7	77	34
16	Kaz Matsui	S-R	10/23/75	**COLORADO**	**.345**	**32**	**113**	**22**	**2**	**19**	**8**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	.278	31	115	26	3	16	3
				NEW YORK NL	**.200**	**38**	**130**	**10**	**1**	**7**	**2**
				Norfolk (AAA)	.333	4	12	2	0	1	0
				St. Lucie (A)	.286	2	7	1	0	0	0
66	Jayson Nix	R-R	8/26/82	Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	.251	103	358	39	2	26	15
6	Omar Quintanilla	L-R	10/24/81	**COLORADO**	**.176**	**11**	**34**	**3**	**0**	**3**	**1**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	.276	82	308	48	4	29	4
14	Troy Tulowitzki	R-R	10/10/84	**COLORADO**	**.240**	**25**	**96**	**15**	**1**	**6**	**3**
				Tulsa (AA)	.291	104	423	75	13	61	6

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
10	Jeff Baker	R-R	6/21/81	**COLORADO**	**.368**	**18**	**57**	**13**	**5**	**21**	**2**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	.305	128	482	71	20	108	7
21	Choo Freeman	R-R	10/20/79	**COLORADO**	**.237**	**88**	**173**	**24**	**2**	**18**	**5**
11	Brad Hawpe	L-L	6/22/79	**COLORADO**	**.293**	**150**	**499**	**67**	**22**	**84**	**5**
5	Matt Holliday	R-R	1/15/80	**COLORADO**	**.326**	**155**	**602**	**119**	**34**	**114**	**10**
15	Jeff Salazar	L-L	11/24/80	**COLORADO**	**.283**	**19**	**53**	**13**	**1**	**8**	**2**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	.265	85	328	62	9	39	12
19	Ryan Spilborghs	R-R	9/5/79	**COLORADO**	**.287**	**67**	**167**	**26**	**4**	**21**	**5**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	.338	68	269	50	5	34	8
31	Cory Sullivan	L-L	8/20/79	**COLORADO**	**.267**	**126**	**386**	**47**	**2**	**30**	**10**
	Willy Taveras	R-R	12/25/81	**HOUSTON**	**.278**	**149**	**529**	**83**	**1**	**30**	**33**

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

LONG-TIME LOSERS General manager Dan O'Dowd has been in his job for seven seasons. Manager Clint Hurdle took over as manager April 26, 2002, moving up from hitting coach to replace fired manager Buddy Bell. The Rockies are 352–436 (.447) under Hurdle and have had one winning season (82–80 in 2000) since O'Dowd took over and six consecutive losing seasons.

MILE-HIGH FUTILITY In their 14 seasons, the Rockies have never won more than 83 games, which they did in both 1996 and '97. Their best season was in the strike-shortened 1995, when they went 77–67 and reached the postseason for the only time in franchise history.

BABY STEPS Attendance rose 9.9 percent from a franchise-low 1,914,389 in 2005 to 2,104,362 last year. But that was the second-lowest total in club history.

SACRIFICIAL HITTING The Rockies led the bigs last year with a club-record 119 sacrifice bunts, the most in the majors in 27 years since the Minnesota Twins had 142 sacrifices in 1979. The last National League team with that many was the 1978 San Francisco Giants (127). The Rockies' previous record for sacrifice bunts was 98 in 1998.

IN A PINCH Rockies pinch hitters had a .215 average, which ranked 11th in the National League, and just six doubles, which was fewer than any team in the league.

ROAD WEARY The Rockies went 32–49 on the road, despite going 22–21 before the All-Star break. After the break, the Rockies slumped to 10–28, including losses in 20 of their final 26 games away from Coors. The Rockies have not won more than 32 games on the road in any season since 2000 (34) and have never had a winning record on the road. The closest they came was 33–39 (.458) in strike-shortened 1995.

THE FARM SYSTEM

Bill Mitchell

2006 Top Draft Pick

Righthander **Greg Reynolds**, the second overall pick last year out of Stanford, received a franchise-record $3.25 million bonus and began his career at High-A Modesto. The Rockies kept him on a limit of five innings or 75 pitches, and Reynolds went 2–1 with a 3.33 ERA in 11 starts. He will begin this season at Double-A Tulsa and could move quickly. Reynolds is not a strikeout pitcher, which worries some scouts. But his stuff, mechanics, command, size and mound poise are all strengths.

Prospects

3B Ian Stewart He'll play third base at Triple-A but continue working in the outfield, where he might end up.

RHP Ubaldo Jimenez A power pitcher with an outstanding changeup; he is working to recapture his curveball.

LHP Franklin Morales A power lefty, Morales complements his fastball with a good curveball and decent changeup.

CF Dexter Fowler Switch-hitter is a lanky 6'4", runs well, has improved his outfield routes and has decent power..

RHP Juan Morillo He pitches at 96-98 mph and has repeatedly touched 100 mph.

Matt Holliday has emerged as one of the premier young outfielders in the game. After posting solid numbers in his first two seasons in the bigs, the Rockies' left fielder busted out with a .326 average, 34 home runs and 114 RBIs in 2006.

the scoop

with Matt Holliday

Athlon Sports: You were a highly recruited quarterback in high school in Stillwater, Okla., with a chance to play at any number of Division I schools. Why did you decide to play baseball?

Matt Holliday: I always felt baseball was the career path I wanted to take and felt like that was just sort of what I wanted to do at the time.

AS: Was there something more intrinsically enjoyable about baseball than football?

MH: The opportunity to play games much more often was always more appealing to me.

AS: As a kid, who were your sports heroes?

MH: I always thought a lot of Cal Ripken growing up. I liked the players that my dad coached (at Oklahoma State), mostly Robin Ventura, and I always followed Jeromy Burnitz. And as I got older, I got a chance to play with him, which was cool.

AS: What was the appeal of Ripken?

MH: I played infield in high school and my younger years and always played shortstop or third base. I was always a little taller and always thought I was going to be about 6'3" or 6'4". Ripken was kind of the first real big shortstop, and I thought I was going to be an infielder and we'd have similar size. I liked that part and the fact that he was always a good guy and played hard. I just liked to watch him play.

AS: Any other favorite players?

MH: I was a big Eric Davis fan, too, for some reason. I'm not sure why, but I always liked Eric Davis. Those few years he was in his prime he was about as five-tooled a player as could be and really exciting. I had posters on my wall of Eric Davis, Ripken and actually had one of Larry Johnson, the basketball player at UNLV, because I always played basketball and played power forward (like him). I was a big fan of that UNLV team he played on with Stacey Augmon and Greg Anthony.

AS: Which road ballparks do you most like to play in?

MH: I like to play in San Francisco, but I would say because of the atmosphere, Wrigley Field's a lot of fun. But we only play there once a year. The same with Pittsburgh (PNC Park), which is probably my favorite place to go because I get to see my grandmother and family (who live about one hour away in Uniontown, Pa.).

AS: How special was it to be a first-time All-Star last year with the game in Pittsburgh?

MH: It was kind of a strange coincidence, but it was easy for my grandma and some of my other family to get there and gave my dad and (his brother) my uncle a reason to bring their families. It was kind of a family reunion of sorts and exciting and a baseball memory I'll have for the rest of my career.

AS: Do you feel any added responsibility hitting cleanup?

MH: I really don't. I like it because I get a chance to hit in the first inning most times. It sort of settles my nerves for the rest of the game, and I like to get out there and get going.

AS: Having never dominated in the minors, do you have any words of encouragement for players on the way up, particularly ones feeling somewhat stalled?

MH: At some point if you have the ability and just kind of the persistence and just keep pushing along, you'll eventually figure it out and hopefully end up in the right place at the right time and a get a shot (in the majors). I felt that once I figured some of the things out with my hitting mechanics that I could be a good player at the major league level. There was a lot of hard times, but I always believed in my mind that I had what it took.

AS: Do you have any explanation as to why your average, home runs, RBIs, on-base and slugging percentages all have gone up in each of the past three seasons?

MH: I think the more you're in the league and the more you've seen certain pitchers, the more comfortable you get in your approach to certain pitchers and how they're going to pitch you. You definitely have a better advantage. And then I consistently learn more and more about my swing and (quickly) know what's wrong when certain things aren't going well and kind of eliminate the big slumps and stay more consistent. I feel I've gotten better at that, which has allowed those numbers, I think, to continue to grow. And hopefully, they continue to grow in this coming year.

AS: Even if you're facing an unfamiliar pitcher, does it help that you still have a larger reservoir of success to draw on at this point?

MH: Oh, absolutely. Confidence is huge. Now I have confidence I can be a good player in the major leagues, and I expect a lot out of myself. Even when things aren't going well, I feel the next at-bat is going to be a good one.

Steve Moore

Los Angeles Dodgers

2007 Prediction: 1st

2006 Finish: 88–74

NL West

The Dodgers were once role models for the way they developed homegrown talent. But the farm system went fallow for most of the '90s. In recent years, the drafting and development side of the organization has been rejuvenated (even as the front office went through five general managers in a six-year span) and the products of that rebirth have begun to reach the majors. Last year's 25-man playoff roster included seven rookies, and more homegrown talent is on the way from a farm system now ranked as the deepest in baseball. GM Ned Colletti has adeptly built a veteran lineup around that developing talent, and the Dodgers could be the team to beat in the National League West for years to come.

Rotation If there is strength in numbers, the Dodgers' starting pitching qualifies as one of the better units in baseball. Unable to land the big bopper he wanted for the middle of his lineup, Colletti spent heavily on starting pitching, signing righthander Jason Schmidt for the front of the rotation and lefthander Randy Wolf for the back half. They join holdovers Derek Lowe and Brad Penny to form a solid foursome, and leave youngsters Chad Billingsley, Hong-Chih Kuo and top prospect Scott Elbert to compete for a big league opportunity. Journeyman Brett Tomko and Mark Hendrickson add depth, bullpen options and/or trade options. Last year's rotation was reduced to Penny and Lowe and three days of woe for much of the season, and was particularly weak at pitching deep into games (an average of 5.1 innings per start and only one complete game all season).

Bullpen Eric Gagne's reign as the best closer in baseball ended two years ago. The Dodgers began to move on last season, finally settling on Japanese veteran Takashi Saito — a 36-year-old major league rookie — as Gagne's successor. Saito was dependable (24 saves in 26 chances) if not as dominant or charismatic as Gagne. Hard-throwing young righthander Jonathan Broxton stands as a formidable setup option and closer-in-the-making. Beyond that duo, though, there is little to get excited about in a bullpen that was overextended by the rotation's failure to pitch deep into games last season.

RAFAEL FURCAL
shortstop

Middle Infielder Colletti's first purchase as Dodgers GM was an expensive one. He signed free agent Rafael Furcal to a three-year, $39 million contract in December 2005 that made him the highest-paid shortstop in the NL. After arthroscopic knee surgery in January led to a series of nagging injuries and a slow start, it looked like a bad buy. From May 1 on, though, Furcal was everything the Dodgers could have hoped for. He finished among NL leaders in hits, runs and stolen bases while matching a career-high with 15 home runs. That pop and a .346 batting average with runners in scoring position are enough for manager Grady Little to consider trying the Dodgers' best leadoff hitter in years in the No. 3 hole this season. Second baseman Jeff Kent began to show his age in 2006. He had the lowest full-season power totals since his rookie year in 1992 and failed to drive in 70 runs for the first time since 1996.

Corners The Dodgers took a $6 million (plus incentives) gamble on Nomar Garciaparra and won big. After having a Hall of Fame career sidetracked by repeated injuries, Garciaparra regained some measure of his old form in 2006 and won a host of Comeback Player of the Year awards. He was especially big in the clutch, coming through with a handful of highlight-reel hits. Injuries were still an issue, though, limiting Garciaparra to 122 games and especially hobbling him late in the season and into the playoffs. The Dodgers are prepared for more of the same, with prospect James Loney ready to spell Garciaparra after getting his feet wet at the major league level last season. Wilson Betemit showed power and will get the first chance to grab the third base spot. But he remains an inconsistent and undisciplined hitter.

Outfield J.D. Drew caught the team off guard by exercising the opt-out clause in his contract and leaving as a free agent. The move left an area of weakness further depleted by the departure of the team's leader in RBIs (100) and co-leader in home runs (20). Unable to find the power threat the team's lineup needs, Colletti's fallback position was to sign free agents Juan Pierre and Luis Gonzalez. Pierre is a younger version of last year's primary center fielder, Kenny Lofton — but one with a much lower on-base percentage and stolen base success rate. Gonzalez is an older version of the Luis Gonzalez who had 57 home runs for the Diamondbacks in 2001. Youngsters Andre Ethier, Matt Kemp and Jason Repko will compete for the final spot, each with their limitations. Ethier was a pleasant surprise last season, winning the left field job and emerging as a Rookie of the Year candidate until he hit a wall in September. Kemp burst onto the scene with seven home runs in his first 18 big league games but looked overmatched after that.

STATLINE

Most Infield Hits, 2003-06

1. Juan Pierre 195
2. Ichiro Suzuki 177
3. Luis Castillo 162
4. Carl Crawford 130
5. Willy Taveras 115

Furcal: Steve Moore; Garciaparra: Rich Pilling/MLB/Getty Images

Catching The Dodgers' catching position was filled for the next several seasons on May 5 last year. That's when Russell Martin made his big league debut. Martin played with poise beyond his years and deserved more Rookie of the Year support than he got. The Dodgers were 71–43 when Martin was in the starting lineup, a remarkable .623 winning percentage with a rookie manning the most challenging position on the field.

Bench The Dodgers have the makings of a strong bench built around a trio of veterans — Marlon Anderson, Olmedo Saenz and Mike Lieberthal. Anderson was a godsend after arriving from the Nationals in a trade. He hit .375 with seven home runs and 15 RBIs in 25 games with the Dodgers. His versatility gives Little flexibility and a left-handed pinch-hit option to match the right-handed Saenz, who hit .397 against left-handed pitching in 2006. Age in the Dodgers' everyday lineup is likely to leave plenty of playing time for youngsters Loney and Repko as well.

Management Three years into the Frank McCourt era, the Dodgers have finally rediscovered a former hallmark of the franchise — stability. The tandem of Colletti and Little has put the dysfunction of McCourt's stewardship to rest. Little is a much better manager of people than games — but that has proven to be just what the team needed. Colletti has restored order to the front office, rebuilding a scouting department that had previously been ignored.

Final Analysis It has been a long time since the Dodgers were more than bit players in the postseason. They haven't won a playoff series since their 1988 World Series victory and have won only one playoff game in that time. That could change soon. The additions of Schmidt and Wolf have given the Dodgers the kind of pitching that takes a team deep into October, and the emergence of young talent like Martin provides a foundation for continued success. In an NL West where everyone else seems to be treading water, the Dodgers have the look of an emerging power.

NOMAR GARCIAPARRA
first base

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Nomar Garciaparra
High-Dividend Hurler: Jason Schmidt
Buy Recommendation: Jonathan Broxton
Sell Recommendation: Luis Gonzalez
Medical (In)Securities: Brad Penny
IPO: 1B James Loney
Futures Market: OF Matt Kemp
Insider Tip: Chad Billingsley will be the No. 2 starter by August.

STATISTICIAN

1 Number of complete games thrown by Dodgers pitchers in 2006.
16 Wins apiece for Derek Lowe and Brad Penny. It was the first time since Orel Hershiser (23) and Tim Leary (17) in 1988 that the Dodgers had two pitchers with at least 16 victories.
.317 Rafael Furcal's batting average from May 1 on in 2006. He hit .198 in April.
.568 Manager Grady Little's winning percentage in two seasons with the Red Sox and one with the Dodgers (276–210), the highest among active managers.
12 Number of trades made by Ned Colletti in his first year as Dodgers general manager.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Brad Penny and Derek Lowe each had their moments last season. Both finished with 16 victories — but neither totally fills the role of staff ace. That's where **Jason Schmidt** comes in. The Dodgers signed the righthander away from their long-time rivals, the San Francisco Giants, with hopes that the 34-year-old can deliver ace-like performances on a regular basis. If he does that often enough in 2007, it will take pressure off the Dodgers' bullpen, compensate for an offense that could run hot and cold and join Penny and Lowe to give the Dodgers the kind of pitching foundation that translates to success in October.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

CF Juan Pierre
Had NL-high 204 hits in 2006 and 58 steals but just a .330 OBP.

C Russell Martin
His 65 RBIs were third-most by an NL catcher.

SS Rafael Furcal
Switch to 3-hole after career-highs in BA (.300) and RBIs (63).

1B Nomar Garciaparra
Former Red Sox hero found second life in his hometown.

2B Jeff Kent
Shrinking range on defense and dropoff in power numbers.

LF Luis Gonzalez
Power has disappeared since his 57-HR season in 2001.

3B Wilson Betemit
Switch-hitter struggles against lefties (.189, 3 of his 18 HRs).

RF Andre Ethier
Hit well over .300 in four straight months before September slide.

BENCH

1B Olmedo Saenz
Savvy role player eats lefties for lunch — a .291 career BA.

UT Marlon Anderson
Flexible veteran could spell Kent at second, Gonzalez in left.

OF Jason Repko
Gives Dodgers an all-purpose fourth outfielder.

C Mike Lieberthal
Former All-Star will be able to give Martin some rest.

1B James Loney
Improved with each of three promotions from minors in '06.

ROTATION

RHP Jason Schmidt
Dodgers have high expectations for their new ace.

RHP Derek Lowe
54–23 in three seasons with Grady Little as his manager.

RHP Brad Penny
Had far too many starts where he didn't pitch past the sixth.

LHP Randy Wolf
Hasn't had a full healthy season since 2003.

RHP Chad Billingsley
Must get pitch counts down and pitch deeper into games.

BULLPEN

RHP Takashi Saito
Little called accidental closer a "godsend."

RHP Jonathan Broxton
Future closer had 97 Ks in 76.1 innings last season.

LHP Joe Beimel
Career-best 2.96 ERA in 62 appearances in 2006.

RHP Brett Tomko
Not consistent enough to stay in rotation.

LHP Hong-Chih Kuo
Will have to outpitch Billingsley to earn a spot in rotation.

LHP Mark Hendrickson
Large (6'9") lefty was roughed up (2–7, 4.68) after joining L.A.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Grady Little **COACHES:** Dave Jauss, Mariano Duncan, Rich Donnelly, Eddie Murray, Rick Honeycutt, Dan Warthen, Manny Mota, Rob Flippo

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
97	Joe Beimel	L-L	4/19/77	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**2-1**	**2.96**	**62**	**2**	**70.0**	**30**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	3-0	1.38	10	0	13.0	9
58	Chad Billingsley	R-R	7/29/84	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**7-4**	**3.80**	**18**	**0**	**90.0**	**59**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	6-3	3.95	13	0	70.2	78
43	Yhency Brazoban	R-R	6/11/80	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**0-0**	**5.40**	**5**	**0**	**5.0**	**4**
51	Jonathan Broxton	R-R	6/16/84	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**4-1**	**2.59**	**68**	**3**	**76.1**	**97**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	1-0	0.00	11	5	11.1	18
45	Elmer Dessens	R-R	1/13/71	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**0-1**	**4.70**	**19**	**0**	**23.0**	**16**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	0-1	13.50	1	0	0.2	0
				KANSAS CITY	**5-7**	**4.50**	**43**	**2**	**54.0**	**36**
	Zachary Hammes	R-R	5/15/84	Las Vegas (AAA)	0-0	5.63	2	0	8.0	8
				Vero Beach (A)	6-3	4.22	41	1	91.2	90
47	Tim Hamulack	R-L	11/14/76	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**0-3**	**6.35**	**33**	**0**	**34.0**	**34**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	0-1	1.42	28	3	38.0	44
30	Mark Hendrickson	L-L	6/23/74	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**2-7**	**4.68**	**18**	**0**	**75.0**	**48**
				TAMPA BAY	**4-8**	**3.81**	**13**	**0**	**89.2**	**51**
27	D.J. Houlton	R-R	8/12/79	Las Vegas (AAA)	9-11	5.60	29	0	162.0	132
	Eric Hull	R-R	12/3/79	Las Vegas (AAA)	2-4	4.19	44	2	73.0	78
56	Hong-Chih Kuo	L-L	7/23/81	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**1-5**	**4.22**	**28**	**0**	**59.2**	**71**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	4-3	3.06	23	1	53.0	63
23	Derek Lowe	R-R	6/1/73	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**16-8**	**3.63**	**35**	**0**	**218.0**	**123**
	Michael Megrew	L-L	1/29/84	Vero Beach (A)	2-3	3.52	18	0	53.2	62
62	Greg Miller	L-L	11/3/84	Las Vegas (AAA)	3-0	4.38	33	0	37.0	32
				Jacksonville (AA)	1-0	0.79	11	1	22.2	24
31	Brad Penny	R-R	5/24/78	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**16-9**	**4.33**	**34**	**0**	**189.0**	**148**
44	Takashi Saito	L-R	2/14/70	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**6-2**	**2.07**	**72**	**24**	**78.1**	**107**
29	Jason Schmidt	R-R	1/29/73	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**11-9**	**3.59**	**32**	**0**	**213.1**	**180**
50	Eric Stults	L-L	12/9/79	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**1-0**	**5.60**	**6**	**0**	**17.2**	**5**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	10-11	4.23	26	0	153.1	128
35	Brett Tomko	R-R	4/7/73	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**8-7**	**4.73**	**44**	**0**	**112.1**	**76**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	0-0	0.00	2	0	2.0	3
41	Randy Wolf	L-L	8/22/76	**PHILADELPHIA**	**4-0**	**5.56**	**12**	**0**	**56.2**	**44**
				Reading (AA)	1-1	6.75	3	0	12.0	11
				Clearwater (A)	0-0	0.00	2	0	5.2	4
				Lakewood (A)	0-0	1.13	2	0	8.0	7

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
14	Mike Lieberthal	R-R	1/18/72	**PHILADELPHIA**	**.273**	**67**	**209**	**22**	**9**	**36**	**0**
				Scranton (AAA)	.667	2	6	3	0	2	0
				Reading (AA)	.167	2	6	0	0	2	0
55	Russell Martin	R-R	2/15/83	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**.282**	**121**	**415**	**65**	**10**	**65**	**10**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	.297	23	74	14	0	9	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
10	Wilson Betemit	S-R	7/28/80	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**.241**	**55**	**174**	**19**	**9**	**24**	**1**
				ATLANTA	**.281**	**88**	**199**	**30**	**9**	**29**	**2**
15	Rafael Furcal	S-R	10/24/77	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**.300**	**159**	**654**	**113**	**15**	**63**	**37**
5	Nomar Garciaparra	R-R	7/23/73	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**.303**	**122**	**469**	**82**	**20**	**93**	**3**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	.500	2	8	3	0	1	0
12	Jeff Kent	R-R	3/7/68	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**.292**	**115**	**407**	**61**	**14**	**68**	**1**
66	Andy LaRoche	R-R	9/13/83	Las Vegas (AAA)	.322	55	202	35	10	35	3
				Jacksonville (AA)	.309	62	230	42	9	46	6
29	James Loney	L-L	5/7/84	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**.284**	**48**	**102**	**20**	**4**	**18**	**1**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	.380	98	366	64	8	67	9
18	Ramon Martinez	R-R	10/10/72	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**.278**	**82**	**176**	**20**	**2**	**24**	**0**
13	Oscar Robles	L-R	4/9/76	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**.152**	**29**	**33**	**6**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	.284	86	275	29	0	28	0
8	Olmedo Saenz	R-R	10/8/70	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**.296**	**103**	**179**	**30**	**11**	**48**	**0**
	Wilson Valdez	R-R	5/20/78	Las Vegas (AAA)	.297	137	528	94	6	53	26

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
21	Marlon Anderson	L-R	1/6/74	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**.375**	**25**	**64**	**12**	**7**	**15**	**2**
				WASHINGTON	**.274**	**109**	**215**	**31**	**5**	**23**	**2**
16	Andre Ethier	L-L	4/10/82	Las Vegas (AAA)	.349	25	86	15	1	12	2
				LOS ANGELES NL	**.308**	**126**	**396**	**50**	**11**	**55**	**5**
26	Luis Gonzalez	L-R	9/3/67	**ARIZONA**	**.271**	**153**	**586**	**93**	**15**	**73**	**0**
27	Matt Kemp	R-R	9/23/84	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**.253**	**52**	**154**	**30**	**7**	**23**	**6**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	.368	44	182	37	3	36	14
				Jacksonville (AA)	.327	48	199	38	7	34	11
9	Juan Pierre	L-L	8/14/77	**CHICAGO NL**	**.292**	**162**	**699**	**87**	**3**	**40**	**58**
17	Jason Repko	R-R	12/27/80	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**.254**	**69**	**130**	**21**	**3**	**16**	**10**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	.276	9	29	2	0	2	1
49	Delwyn Young	S-R	6/30/82	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**.000**	**8**	**5**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	.273	140	532	76	18	98	3

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

CLUTCH The Dodgers hit a National League-best .286 with runners in scoring position last season — the first time they led the National League in that statistic since their 1988 championship season. Two players led the way — Rafael Furcal and Nomar Garciaparra. Furcal hit .346 with runners in scoring position, eighth in the National League. Garciaparra hit .368 (fifth in the National League) with a handful of 'walkoff' hits.

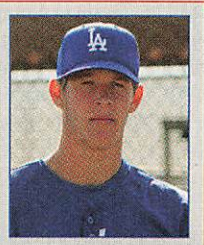
STRUGGLES The Dodgers made the playoffs in 2006 despite playing poorly against good teams. They went 19–38 against teams that finished the season with winning records, including 8–30 against teams that made the playoffs.

HOME SWEET HOME The Dodgers had a split personality in 2006. They had 49 victories at Dodger Stadium. Among NL teams, only the New York Mets (50) had more home victories last season. The dual personalities were most pronounced on offense. The Dodgers hit .293 with 88 home runs and 5.4 runs per game at home, .260 with 65 home runs and 4.7 runs per game on the road.

SURPRISE CLOSER Japanese reliever Takashi Saito came to spring training last year on a minor league contract and opened the season on the Dodgers' Triple-A roster. When Eric Gagne had to undergo elbow surgery during the first week of the season, Saito was promoted and became the oldest rookie in Dodger history. The 36-year-old eventually stepped in as the Dodgers' closer and set the franchise rookie record with 24 saves.

MODEL FRANCHISE The Dodgers were named the Organization of the Year by *Baseball America* for the 2006 season. The award recognizes total performance in the scouting and player development area at every level of the major and minor leagues.

THE FARM SYSTEM



Bill Mitchell

2006 Top Draft Pick

After an ill-fated, year-long dance with their 2005 top pick (righthander Luke Hochevar), the Dodgers had three of the first 31 picks last June. They took a pair of pitchers (high school lefthander **Clayton Kershaw** seventh overall and junior college righthander Bryan Morris 26th) and a legacy (Preston Mattingly, son of former Yankee Don). Kershaw quickly established himself as one of the team's prized prospects. In 37 innings over 10 games for the rookie-level Gulf Coast Dodgers last summer, Kershaw was 2–0 with a 1.95 ERA and 54 strikeouts.

Prospects

1B James Loney Won a minor league batting title in 2006 and is ready to step in for oft-injured Nomar Garciaparra.

OF Matt Kemp Jumped from Double-A to majors in May and arrived with power burst but is still a raw hitter.

3B Andy LaRoche Shoulder injury set him back in 2006, but he will get long look from Dodgers in spring.

LHP Scott Elbert Lefty could be on the same fast career track as Chad Billingsley after finishing 2006 in Double-A.

RHP Mark Alexander 20th round pick in 2004 was team's '06 Minor League Pitcher of the Year after 0.96 ERA in Double-A.

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San Diego Padres

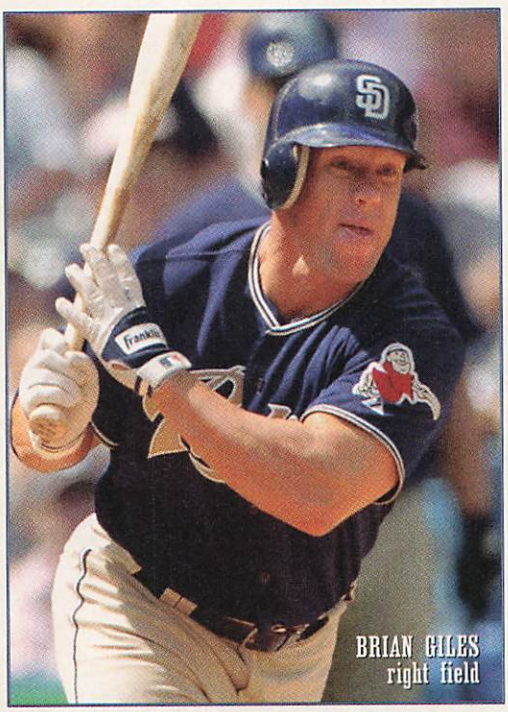
2007 Prediction: 4th

2006 Finish: 88–74

NL West

Another NL West title was followed by another playoff series loss to St. Louis, which was followed by another offseason retooling. Sound familiar? Maybe a little boring? The Padres will try to win their third straight title in the sometimes wild but often mild West, this time with rookie manager Bud Black, aging Greg Maddux and an offense that will try to make up for a pathetic showing in October. Fans would love to see them win a playoff series — especially against the Cardinals.

Rotation Pitching was supposed to have carried the Padres deep into October, but the staff was undermined by an atrocious lack of offense. The rotation is still the strength of this team, and it got better — and smarter — with the addition of Maddux. He might not have the same stuff he did in winning those four straight Cy Young Awards, but the Padres still think Maddux can fool batters or they wouldn't have committed $10 million to him. Chris Young not only could supplant Jake Peavy as the staff ace but is the odds-on favorite to throw the first no-hitter in franchise history. The 6'10" Young, who flummoxes batters with his deceptive release point, came two outs shy of a no-no on Sept. 22 before Joe Randa rifled a two-run homer to center. In late May, he took a no-no into the eighth against Colorado. Young notched the team's only postseason win, at St. Louis in Game 3 of the division series. Peavy not only wishes he could take back that home-run pitch to Albert Pujols in Game 1, but he's also looking to rebound from a very un-Peavy-like year. He was 11–14 with a 4.09 ERA, the product of shoulder tendinitis, lack of run support and a few more freak injuries. Still, he led the team with 202.1 innings and 215 strikeouts. Rounding out the rotation will be Clay Hensley and Mike Thompson, who did a yeoman's job in filling in for Woody Williams and making several emergency starts down the stretch.


BRIAN GILES
right field

Bullpen Trevor Hoffman still can't win the Cy Young Award, even after becoming baseball's all-time saves leader. Hoffy had an NL-best 46 saves and passed Lee Smith as the most prolific closer ever, yet found out that voters still, for the most part, don't like rewarding ninth-inning guys with the Cy Young. Hoffman finished second to Arizona's 16-game winner, Brandon Webb. In 1998, Hoffman had 53 saves and finished second to Tom Glavine. Scott Linebrink continues to be mentioned in every trade rumor, but the Padres are hanging on to him to eventually succeed Hoffman. Cla Meredith showed that he's here to stay with his lively sidearm delivery, and the Padres added depth by acquiring local products Royce Ring and Heath Bell.

Middle Infield In a move that seemingly goes counter to their philosophy, the Padres traded homegrown second baseman Josh Barfield to Cleveland for Kevin Kouzmanoff. But they did sign hometown product Marcus Giles, who is expected to give the Padres both a defensive and offensive boost if he can stay healthy. Shortstop Khalil Greene was sidelined for a good portion of the last two months of 2006 after injuring a finger. Some fans groused about his performance, but he is now the only homegrown player in the starting lineup.

Corners Back home in San Diego after being included in a stellar trade with Texas, Adrian Gonzalez had a breakout performance in his first full big league season. He was a defensive improvement over Ryan Klesko and won the team's MVP award. Still, his offensive numbers point out how lackluster the Padres' attack was last season. Gonzalez led the Padres in two of the three triple crown categories, with a .304 average and 24 HRs. Kouzmanoff became the first player in big league history to hit a grand slam on the first pitch he saw after being called up by Cleveland. He was a combined .379 with 22 homers and 75 RBIs in the minors last year.

Outfield The Padres made no one happy except Terrmel Sledge when they let Dave Roberts leave as a free agent. The only knock against Roberts was that he didn't hit for power. But he certainly did enough other things right to make fans bemoan his exit. The pressure will be on Sledge to deliver in Petco Park, especially since the Padres failed to add a slugger in the offseason, and right fielder Brian Giles' power numbers continue to slip. It was a no-brainer that the Padres picked up Mike Cameron's option. Cameron is a natural in Petco Park's vast center field, and his first season in Padres blue resulted in his third career Gold Glove Award.

Catching The Padres didn't want to pony up $8 million to keep Mike Piazza even though the 38-year-old did put up some decent numbers. The position, however, is in good hands with the tandem of Josh Bard and Rob Bowen,

STATLINE

Most HRs in a Career of Fewer Than 2,000 PAs

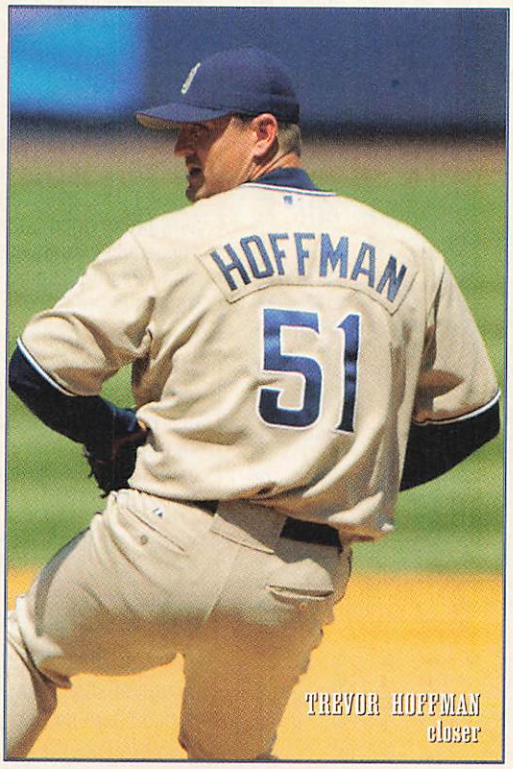
1. Russ Branyan	111
2. Jason Bay	97
3. Luke Easter	93
4t. Shane Andrews	86
4t. Carlos Pena	86

who provided impressive backup following their acquisitions after Opening Day. Both have good pop with the bat and will be defensive improvements over the weak-armed Piazza. The Padres sent top prospect George Kottaras to Boston for David Wells, but are confident Bard and Bowen can carry the load.

Bench Black will have the luxury of turning to a trio of players — Geoff Blum, Russell Branyan and Todd Walker — who can start for any length of time, if necessary. Branyan and Walker both came over as third basemen late last season, although Walker ended up playing a fair amount at second base. Blum not only filled in capably at shortstop while Greene rehabbed an injured finger but also batted .387 (12-for-31) as a pinch-hitter, best in the majors. Jose Cruz Jr. joins an outfield that isn't very deep.

Management Technically, the Padres didn't force out manager Bruce Bochy. But they made it clear a contract extension wasn't forthcoming, which meant he would have gone into 2007 as a lame duck. So he took San Francisco's three-year offer, and the Padres replaced him with Black, who has never managed at any level. GM Kevin Towers got an extension through 2008 — but only after Bochy had hit the road. Towers has built four division winners, including the 1998 NL champs.

Final Analysis After failing to land a big bopper in the offseason — they were quickly priced out of the market, along with a lot of other teams — the Padres instead are trumpeting the fact they're stockpiling draft picks as compensation for losing free agents such as Roberts, Williams, Klesko and Alan Embree. Even though their farm system needs bolstering, that's not exactly what the ticket-buying public wants to hear. The Padres haven't exactly taken the NL West by storm the last two seasons, and anything less than a stellar start could relegate them to third or fourth place — and a further decline in attendance at pricey Petco Park.



TREVOR HOFFMAN
closer

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Adrian Gonzalez
High-Dividend Hurler: Trevor Hoffman
Buy Recommendation: Khalil Greene
Sell Recommendation: The Cla(s), Meredith and Hensley
Medical (In)Securities: Jake Peavy
IPO: 3B Kevin Kouzmanoff
Futures Market: RHP Cesar Carrillo
Insider Tip: No Padre will top 25 homers.

STATISTICIAN

1 Postseason games won by the organization since 1998.
2 Giles brothers on their local nine.
4 Cy Youngs belonging to newcomer Greg Maddux.
15 Wins by Maddux last year, which would have led the Pads.
41 Maddux's age on April 14.
332 Walks by Brian Giles since joining Pads in August '03.
482 Career saves for Trevor Hoffman.
3.87 Staff ERA in '06, which led the NL.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

By sheer career accomplishments, the nod goes to **Greg Maddux**. Even if his stuff isn't the same as it was a decade ago, he's still The Professor, who can make his fastball move all over the place. Yes, he'll turn 41 in April, but his 333 career wins, 3.07 ERA and 16 Gold Gloves command respect, if not flat-out awe. Even if he's not a vocal leader, his mere presence should help the Padres' otherwise young rotation. And then there's this — Maddux's combined 15 wins for the Cubs and Dodgers last year would have led the Padres.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

LF Terrmel Sledge
Takes over for the popular Dave Roberts in leadoff role.

2B Marcus Giles
He'll be a sparkplug in the field and at the plate if healthy.

RF Brian Giles
Draws plenty of walks, but power numbers continue to shrink.

1B Adrian Gonzalez
Caliente Kid comes home to SD and shines in his first full season.

CF Mike Cameron
Saved several games with glove in Petco's cow-pasture outfield.

C Josh Bard
Couldn't handle Tim Wakefield's knuckler in Boston; shined in SD.

3B Kevin Kouzmanoff
Quick riser in minors plugs Pads' hole at the hot corner.

SS Khalil Greene
DL time is starting to pile up for slick fielder.

BENCH

INF Geoff Blum
One of baseball's best pinch-hitters.

INF Russell Branyan
Started 26 of final 33 games of '06 at third base.

INF Todd Walker
22 starts at third, 13 starts at second for the Padres in '06.

OF Jose Cruz Jr.
Played all three outfield positions for the Dodgers.

C Rob Bowen
.849 OPS at home, .628 on the road in 2006.

ROTATION

RHP Chris Young
Former Ivy Leaguer went 6–0 with NL-best 2.41 ERA on road.

RHP Jake Peavy
Looking to rebound from an un-Peavy-like season.

RHP Greg Maddux
The Professor finally makes it to SD.

RHP Clay Hensley
First full season in bigs netted a 3.71 ERA.

RHP Mike Thompson
Wore out the Portland-to-San Diego shuttle.

BULLPEN

RHP Trevor Hoffman
All-Star game hiccup aside, finally hits top of saves charts.

RHP Scott Linebrink
Still closer-in-waiting after numerous trade rumors.

RHP Cla Meredith
Cardinals caught up to him, but sidearm delivery is still vexing.

RHP Doug Brocail
Rebounded from heart scare to work 25 games.

LHP Royce Ring
2.13 ERA in 11 appearances with the Mets.

RHP Heath Bell
Another local who's big and being groomed for setup role.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Bud Black **COACHES:** Craig Colbert, Bobby Meacham, Glenn Hoffman, Darren Balsley, Darrel Akerfelds, Merv Rettenmund

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
49	Mike Adams	R-R	7/29/78	**MILWAUKEE**	**0-0**	**11.57**	**2**	**0**	**2.1**	**1**
				Nashville (AAA)	1-1	3.31	15	2	16.1	18
				Norfolk (AAA)	0-0	4.91	13	0	14.2	12
				Buffalo (AAA)	0-0	1.93	3	0	4.2	3
				Portland (AAA)	0-2	4.18	17	0	23.2	15
22	Heath Bell	R-R	9/29/77	**NEW YORK NL**	**0-0**	**5.11**	**22**	**0**	**37.0**	**35**
				Norfolk (AAA)	3-3	1.29	30	12	35.0	56
26	Doug Brocail	R-R	5/16/67	**SAN DIEGO**	**2-2**	**4.76**	**25**	**0**	**28.1**	**19**
				Lake Elsinore (A)	0-0	0.00	6	0	6.1	12
58	Andrew Brown	R-R	2/17/81	**CLEVELAND**	**0-0**	**3.60**	**9**	**0**	**10.0**	**7**
				Buffalo (AAA)	5-4	2.60	39	5	62.1	53
	Kevin Cameron	R-R	12/15/79	Rochester (AAA)	6-4	2.98	40	9	66.1	65
56	Scott Cassidy	R-R	10/3/75	**SAN DIEGO**	**6-4**	**2.53**	**42**	**0**	**42.2**	**49**
				Portland (AAA)	3-1	2.70	17	9	20.0	23
45	Justin Hampson	L-L	5/24/80	**COLORADO**	**1-0**	**7.50**	**5**	**0**	**12.0**	**9**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	8-4	3.33	31	0	121.2	95
52	Clay Hensley	R-R	8/31/79	**SAN DIEGO**	**11-12**	**3.71**	**37**	**0**	**187.0**	**122**
51	Trevor Hoffman	R-R	10/13/67	**SAN DIEGO**	**0-2**	**2.14**	**65**	**46**	**63.0**	**50**
64	Ryan Ketchner	L-L	4/19/82	Las Vegas (AAA)	0-0	9.00	1	0	2.0	2
				Vero Beach (A)	2-1	1.45	9	0	18.2	19
				GCL Dodgers (R)	0-0	0.00	3	0	6.0	8
38	Scott Linebrink	R-R	8/4/76	**SAN DIEGO**	**7-4**	**3.57**	**73**	**2**	**75.2**	**68**
37	Greg Maddux	R-R	4/14/66	**CHICAGO NL**	**9-11**	**4.69**	**22**	**0**	**136.1**	**81**
				LOS ANGELES NL	**6-3**	**3.30**	**12**	**0**	**73.2**	**36**
43	Cla Meredith	R-R	6/4/83	**SAN DIEGO**	**5-1**	**1.07**	**45**	**0**	**50.2**	**37**
				Portland (AAA)	3-0	1.39	24	2	32.1	24
				Pawtucket (AAA)	0-0	5.27	8	0	13.2	14
44	Jake Peavy	R-R	5/31/81	**SAN DIEGO**	**11-14**	**4.09**	**32**	**0**	**202.1**	**215**
40	Royce Ring	L-L	12/21/80	**NEW YORK NL**	**0-0**	**2.13**	**11**	**0**	**12.2**	**8**
				Norfolk (AAA)	2-2	2.97	36	11	39.1	40
63	Leo Rosales	R-R	5/28/81	Mobile (AA)	5-6	3.21	53	0	61.2	54
				Lake Elsinore (A)	1-0	0.00	5	0	6.1	7
54	Tim Stauffer	R-R	6/2/82	**SAN DIEGO**	**1-0**	**1.50**	**1**	**0**	**6.0**	**2**
				Portland (AAA)	7-12	5.53	28	0	153.0	89
46	Scott Strickland	R-R	4/26/76	Indianapolis (AAA)	5-2	2.09	53	5	73.1	70
39	Mike Thompson	R-R	11/6/80	**SAN DIEGO**	**4-5**	**4.99**	**19**	**0**	**92.0**	**35**
				Portland (AAA)	6-1	3.76	13	0	69.1	41
60	Sean Thompson	L-L	10/13/82	Mobile (AA)	6-10	3.86	27	0	154.0	134
61	Jared Wells	R-R	10/31/81	Portland (AAA)	2-9	7.27	15	0	73.0	55
				Mobile (AA)	4-3	2.64	12	0	61.1	49
32	Chris Young	R-R	5/25/79	**SAN DIEGO**	**11-5**	**3.46**	**31**	**0**	**179.1**	**164**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
28	Josh Bard	S-R	5/30/78	**SAN DIEGO**	**.338**	**93**	**231**	**28**	**9**	**40**	**1**
				BOSTON	**.278**	**7**	**18**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**
14	Rob Bowen	S-R	2/24/81	**SAN DIEGO**	**.245**	**94**	**94**	**22**	**3**	**13**	**0**
				Lake Elsinore (A)	.143	2	7	0	0	0	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
27	Geoff Blum	S-R	4/26/73	**SAN DIEGO**	**.254**	**109**	**276**	**27**	**4**	**34**	**0**
34	Russell Branyan	L-R	12/19/75	**SAN DIEGO**	**.292**	**27**	**72**	**14**	**6**	**9**	**0**
				TAMPA BAY	**.201**	**64**	**169**	**23**	**12**	**27**	**2**
62	Luis Cruz	R-R	2/10/84	Mobile (AA)	.261	130	499	65	12	65	8
22	Marcus Giles	R-R	5/18/78	**ATLANTA**	**.262**	**141**	**550**	**87**	**11**	**60**	**10**
23	Adrian Gonzalez	L-L	5/8/82	**SAN DIEGO**	**.304**	**156**	**570**	**83**	**24**	**82**	**0**
3	Khalil Greene	R-R	10/21/79	**SAN DIEGO**	**.245**	**121**	**412**	**56**	**15**	**55**	**5**
12	Kevin Kouzmanoff	R-R	7/25/81	**CLEVELAND**	**.214**	**16**	**56**	**4**	**3**	**11**	**0**
				Buffalo (AAA)	.353	27	102	22	7	20	2
				Akron (AA)	.389	67	244	46	15	55	2
	Craig Stansberry	R-R	3/8/82	Indianapolis (AAA)	.223	60	197	30	3	25	10
				Altoona (AA)	.258	72	260	46	10	30	8
7	Todd Walker	L-R	5/25/73	**SAN DIEGO**	**.282**	**44**	**124**	**18**	**3**	**13**	**2**
				CHICAGO NL	**.277**	**94**	**318**	**38**	**6**	**40**	**0**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
25	Mike Cameron	R-R	1/8/73	**SAN DIEGO**	**.268**	**141**	**552**	**88**	**22**	**83**	**25**
				Lake Elsinore (A)	.333	2	6	1	0	1	0
12	Jose Cruz Jr.	S-R	4/19/74	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**.233**	**86**	**223**	**34**	**5**	**17**	**5**
9	Jack Cust	L-R	1/7/79	**SAN DIEGO**	**.333**	**4**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Portland (AAA)	.293	138	441	97	30	77	0
24	Brian Giles	L-L	1/20/71	**SAN DIEGO**	**.263**	**158**	**604**	**87**	**14**	**83**	**9**
18	Paul McAnulty	L-R	2/24/81	**SAN DIEGO**	**.231**	**16**	**13**	**3**	**1**	**3**	**0**
				Portland (AAA)	.310	125	478	76	19	79	1
8	Terrmel Sledge	L-L	3/18/77	**SAN DIEGO**	**.229**	**38**	**70**	**7**	**2**	**7**	**0**
				Portland (AAA)	.311	101	367	69	24	73	5

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

BROTHER ACT Brian and Marcus Giles will be the third set of brothers to play for the Padres. Chris Gwynn joined his more famous sibling Tony on the Pads' 1996 division-winning club, and Roberto Alomar and Sandy Jr. were briefly together with the Padres in 1988-89. There's another set of brothers with the Padres, closer Trevor Hoffman and his older brother Glenn, who's going into his second season as third base coach.

LEATHER Center fielder Mike Cameron's Gold Glove was the first for a Padres player since the late Ken Caminiti was making dazzling plays at third base in 1997.

STAYING AWAY San Diegans have been voting with their feet, meaning there have been plenty of vacant seats at Petco Park. After drawing a club-record 3,016,752 in 2004, Petco's inaugural season, attendance has dropped to 2,869,787 in 2005 and 2,659,757 in 2006. It's safe to say that although the Padres have won consecutive NL West titles, their play at home hasn't exactly been riveting.

OCM III He's full name is Olise Claiborne Meredith III, but the Padres' sidearming reliever goes by Cla (pronounced "Clay"). His teammates call him Claw. Opponents know him as a pretty good pitcher. He set a franchise record with 33.2 consecutive scoreless innings, the longest in the majors since Pedro Martinez threw 35 straight scoreless innings for Boston in 2002.

GOOD DEAL GM Kevin Towers has jokingly referred to himself in the past as a "sludge merchant" for his ability to trade underperforming or overpaid players (or both). The one big trade from last year that could pay dividends for a long time was moving disgruntled catcher Doug Mirabelli back to Boston for catcher Josh Bard and reliever Cla Meredith.

THE FARM SYSTEM

Paul Jasienski

2006 Top Draft Pick

Third baseman **Matt Antonelli** played well enough at short-season Eugene that he earned a late-season promotion to Double-A Fort Wayne. At Eugene, he hit .286 with 22 RBIs and no homers. He had his struggles, striking out 31 times while drawing 46 walks, and committing seven errors. He had only 16 at-bats at Double-A, hitting .125 with six strikeouts. If Kevin Kouzmanoff settles in at third for the Padres, Antonelli is such a versatile athlete that by the time he's ready for the big leagues, he could be playing second base or center field.

Prospects

RHP Cesar Carrillo 3.02 ERA at AA Mobile, but elbow pain was a concern.

OF Paul McAnulty Had 13 ABs with Pads in '06, including walkoff two-run HR vs. Rockies.

LHP Cesar Ramos The 35th overall pick in the 2005 draft had 70 Ks and 3.70 ERA in 141 IP at Class A Lake Elsinore.

OF Chad Huffman Northwest League All-Star hit .343 to earn promotion to Double-A.

RHP Tim Stauffer Gave Pads six strong innings vs. Dodgers in emergency start for ailing Chan Ho Park in late August.

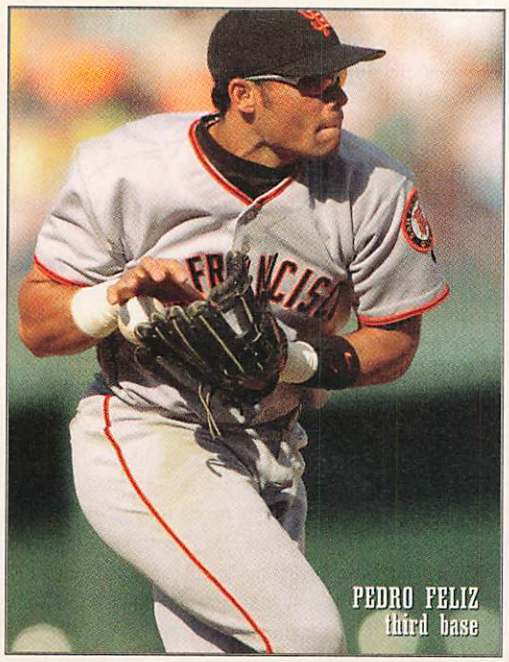
San Francisco Giants

2007 Prediction: **2nd**

2006 Finish: 76–85
NL West

The Giants re-signed 42-year-old Barry Bonds to anchor their lineup for one more season, then ensured that the Barry Era would continue by signing lefthander Barry Zito to a $126 million contract with a vesting option for 2014. This season will be dominated by Bonds' run at Hank Aaron's home run record, but the Giants need contributions from up and down their roster to contend.

Rotation The Giants gave Zito the richest contract to a pitcher in baseball history, eclipsing the riches bestowed on Mike Hampton by Colorado in 2001. Though long-term contracts to pitchers seldom work out, the Giants are counting on Zito's record of perfect attendance. He hasn't missed a start in his career. The addition of Zito makes the rotation a solid group. Matt Cain is a budding superstar, Noah Lowry is a solid performer coming off an injury-plagued season, and club officials believe Matt Morris will have a bounce-back year. The Giants could fill out their rotation with young lefty Jonathan Sanchez, innings eater Brad Hennessey or former 20-game winner Russ Ortiz, who signed a one-year deal in January. Tim Lincecum, last year's first-round pick, is also a good bet to contribute at some point. This group will match up well against the Dodgers, who stole ace righthander Jason Schmidt away from San Francisco.


PEDRO FELIZ
third base

Feliz: Steve Moore

Bullpen Armando Benitez was ostracized in his own clubhouse, and Giants fans booed him louder than Tommy Lasorda. But he has another year on his contract, and if his knees allow, the Giants plan for him to begin the season as the closer. It's still a good bet that Benitez will be traded in spring training or lose his job to one of several young upstarts — a group headed by righthander Brian Wilson. The Giants love Wilson's hard fastball-slider combo in the late innings. Kevin Correia is another with live stuff and improving command. Versatile lefty Steve Kline is back, though veteran Tim Worrell announced his retirement in mid-January.

Middle Infield Will Omar Vizquel become the first 40-year-old shortstop to win a Gold Glove? Nobody is betting against him. Vizquel has won each of the past two seasons and has 11 overall, trailing only Ozzie Smith (13) at the position. He also is coming off a solid offensive season and will return to the No. 2 spot in the order. Second baseman Ray Durham also returns on a two-year contract after the Giants mulled other choices. Durham, 35, made the transition from leadoff hitter to run producer last season, posting career highs in home runs (26) and RBIs (93). He'll be asked to hit fifth (and protect Bonds) in the lineup once again. If Durham regresses to his previous numbers, the Giants could be in trouble.

Corners The Giants haven't received big-time production from a corner infielder since Matt Williams, and they figure to scrape by again this season. Pedro Feliz is back on a one-year contract and should provide defensive stability. He drove in a team-best 98 runs, but his .281 on-base percentage was the third-lowest among all qualified National League players. Rich Aurilia returned with the promise of an everyday job and should open as the first baseman. But the club signed Ryan Klesko, who could get the lion's share of at-bats in a first base platoon. Aurilia figures to get playing time

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

CF Dave Roberts
Caught only six times in 55 stolen base attempts in 2006.

SS Omar Vizquel
Another Gold Glove would firm up his Hall of Fame candidacy.

1B Rich Aurilia
Shortstop on '02 World Series team will move around the infield.

LF Barry Bonds
He's back to become baseball's home run king.

2B Ray Durham
Must stay healthy to protect Bonds; Giants have no other options.

RF Randy Winn
Didn't get on base enough to remain in everyday leadoff role.

3B Pedro Feliz
Prone to long slumps while he chases breaking pitches in the dirt.

C Bengie Molina
Seasoned game caller also gives a boost to bottom of the lineup.

BENCH

1B Ryan Klesko
Missed nearly all last season because of shoulder surgery.

OF Todd Linden
Switch-hitter fixed a dippy lefty swing and a me-first attitude.

INF Kevin Frandsen
Gutsy competitor makes consistent contact.

UT Mark Sweeney
Classy veteran has played five stints under Bruce Bochy.

C Eliezer Alfonzo
Energetic backup will get about a third of the starts.

ROTATION

LHP Barry Zito
New face of the franchise will get the ball on Opening Day.

RHP Matt Cain
Ranked third in the NL with 7.41 hits allowed per nine innings.

RHP Matt Morris
Hoping to rebound from 10–15 debut as a Giant.

LHP Noah Lowry
Struggled through 27 starts after straining an oblique muscle.

RHP Brad Hennessey
Faces competition in camp and could be moved to the pen.

BULLPEN

RHP Armando Benitez
A trade prior to Opening Day is a strong possibility.

LHP Steve Kline
Workhorse lefty leads all relievers with 682 games since '98.

RHP Brian Wilson
Huge fastball and slider remind some of Robb Nen.

RHP Vinnie Chulk
Impressed coaches with grit and ability to throw strikes.

RHP Kevin Correia
Former long man has gravitated toward a set-up role.

LHP Jack Taschner
Southpaw was hit hard in 24 appearances last season.

around the infield, though perhaps not enough to keep him happy. He's the closest thing the Giants have to a No. 3 hitter.

Outfield Bonds remains a feared hitter despite his advancing age and health concerns. It took him most of last season to find his swing after missing nearly all of 2005 because of three right knee surgeries. The Giants hope he can remain an elite on-base presence while hitting the 22 home runs he needs to pass Aaron's celebrated record of 755. The chase and the media crush surrounding it are likely to distract the club, especially because much of the attention will be negative due to Bonds' connection to the steroids era. Bonds has meager range in left field, but his instincts keep him serviceable. New center fielder Dave Roberts should energize the top of the lineup as long as he stays healthy, though his defense is merely adequate. Randy Winn, who is coming off a down year, moves to right field. The outfield defense could be a glaring issue.

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Barry Bonds
High-Dividend Hurler: Matt Cain
Buy Recommendation: Todd Linden
Sell Recommendation: Rich Aurilia
Medical (In)Securities: Barry Bonds
IPO: LHP Jonathan Sanchez
Futures Market: RHP Brian Wilson
Insider Tip: The creakier Bonds gets, the more you want Linden.

Catching Bengie Molina understands he is the club's second choice to start on Opening Day, but there are no hard feelings. The Giants were saddened when they finally acknowledged that Gold Glove winner Mike Matheny would be unable to play the final year of his contract because of post-concussion syndrome. So they worked out a three-year deal with Molina, who also owns a Gold Glove as well as a World Series ring. Molina is heralded for his game-calling skills and attention to detail, but he is no longer considered an elite defensive catcher. He threw out just 19 percent of runners last year in Toronto, and he doesn't block balls well because of his size. But he also hit 19 home runs last year and should provide a nice offensive upgrade in the lower portion of the batting order.

Bench Due to limited choices on the free agent market, the Giants were forced to rebuild with more older players. This time, they assembled a more complementary roster, which should give new manager Bruce Bochy the tools to rest regulars. Mark Sweeney remains one of the best left-handed pinch hitters in history, and outfielder Todd Linden is a switch-hitting threat who should see plenty of time when Bonds needs days off. Promising rookie infielder Kevin Frandsen will fill a utility role. Catcher Eliezer Alfonzo, a surprise as Matheny's emergency replacement last year, will back up Molina. Two outstanding athletes, Jason Ellison and Fred Lewis, figure to vie for the No. 5 outfielder spot.

Management Bochy spent over two decades with the Padres as a player, coach and manager. He knows the division better than anyone, and his handling of young pitchers earns high marks. The Giants hope to build around their young arms, so GM Brian Sabean views Bochy as an ideal caretaker. Giants upper management has shown nothing but the utmost confidence in Sabean, who had a fine 10-year run but is riding a cold streak. He has not made an impact trade since acquiring Schmidt in 2001.

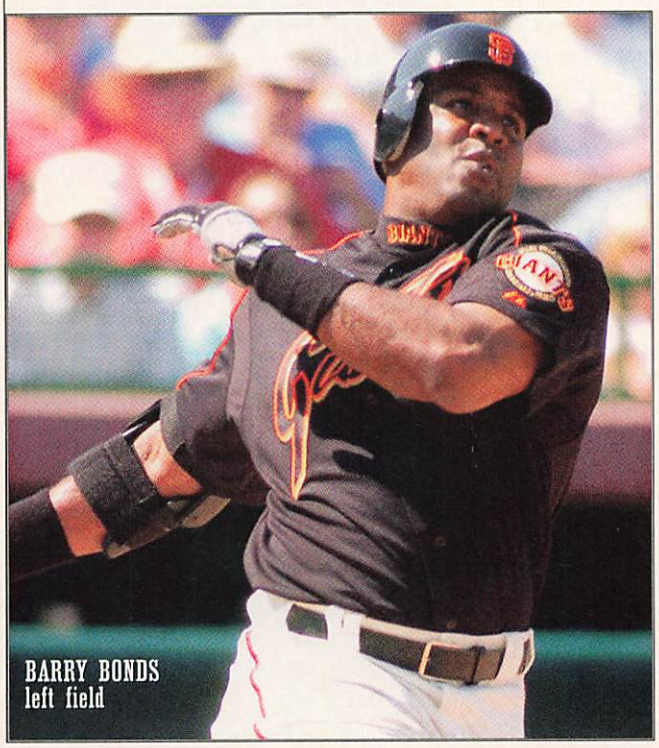
Final Analysis Hosting an All-Star Game and watching Bonds pass Aaron might be enough for one season, but the Giants want to play October baseball, too. Zito's signing caused the payroll to jump to a club-record $95 million, leaving no doubt the Giants are committed to winning. But they assembled another old roster, once again leaving them at risk for injuries. And if they lose Bonds for any reason, be it physical, legal or otherwise, they'll be in for a long season.

STATLINE

AVG with Runners in Scoring Position, 2003-06

1.	**Barry Bonds**	**.376**
2.	Michael Young	.364
3.	Albert Pujols	.359
4.	Todd Helton	.351
5.	Gary Sheffield	.346

(minimum 500 PAs)



BARRY BONDS
left field

STATISTICIAN

22 Home runs that Barry Bonds needs to break Hank Aaron's record of 755.
26 Home runs that Bonds hit in 2006.
12 Intentional walks issued to Bonds in April.
1 Intentional walks issued to Bonds in September.
126 Millions committed to Barry Zito, the largest contract to a pitcher in major league history.
0 Starts that Zito has missed over his six-year career.
13 Victories for Matt Cain, who became the first rookie to pace the staff since John Burkett (14) in 1990.
179 Strikeouts for Cain, which led all NL rookies and was the third-most by a rookie in franchise history.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

The Giants took tons of abuse when they caved to **Barry Bonds'** demands and re-signed him to a contract for almost $16 million with reachable incentives worth $4 million more. Bonds looked like he was finished in the first half last season, when he batted .249 entering the All-Star break. But he still got on base with regularity, and when pitchers began to challenge him in the second half, he rescued his season by hitting .292 with 14 homers after the break. The Giants have more speed at the top of the order and better balance throughout, but Bonds is the only true threat in the lineup. He'll need to remain an elite performer if the Giants hope to contend.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

TRENDING DOWN The Giants suffered their second consecutive losing season in 2006, marking their first back-to-back losing campaigns since 1994-96. Since the start of the '97 season, the Giants have played only 19 games with no hope of making the playoffs. Only the Yankees (none) and Braves (six) have played fewer over that span.

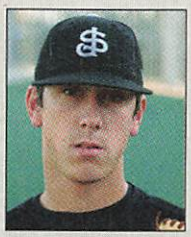
NATIONAL LEAGUE KING Barry Bonds quietly passed one of Hank Aaron's biggest home run marks on Sept. 23, hitting his 734th career home run to break the National League record. Bonds launched the record-breaking shot off Brewers lefthander Chris Capuano at Miller Park. Neither Aaron nor commissioner Bud Selig, who lives in Milwaukee, was on hand for the occasion, and fans met the moment with indifference or boos.

FLIRTING WITH HISTORY Matt Cain, a 21-year-old rookie, had several close shaves with no-hitters and was four outs away June 19 before the Angels' Chone Figgins snapped the effort with a single. It was the longest attempt by a Giant since Scott Garrelts went 8.2 innings on July 29, 1990, vs. Cincinnati. Cain also authored a one-hit shutout May 29 at Oakland, allowing only a double to Jay Payton in the third inning. The Giants haven't had a no-hitter since John Montefusco twirled one on Sept. 26, 1976.

GOLDEN BOY Omar Vizquel became only the seventh player in baseball history — and the first shortstop — to win multiple Gold Gloves in each league. Others to accomplish the feat are pitchers Bobby Shantz and Jim Kaat, catcher Bob Boone, outfielders Dave Winfield and Jim Edmonds, and former Giants first baseman J.T. Snow.

CLUTCH Mark Sweeney had eight pinch hits to climb up the career list. He enters the year with 139 pinch hits, tied with Dave Hansen for fifth all-time. With 11 more pinch hits, he can move all the way into a second-place tie with Manny Mota. Lenny Harris holds the record with 212 pinch hits.

THE FARM SYSTEM



2006 Top Draft Pick

Tim Lincecum might be the most intriguing pitcher in the minor leagues. He is barely 5'10" in his spikes and has an unorthodox delivery, but scouts compare his fastball and wicked curve to what Kerry Wood had as a rookie. Lincecum was the Golden Spikes winner and two-time Pac-10 Player of the Year at Washington. Because of a heavy college workload, the Giants kept his innings down after taking him with the 10th overall pick. While Lincecum could be a difference maker as a closer, the Giants envision him alongside Barry Zito and Matt Cain in what could become a dominant rotation for years to come.

Prospects

LHP Jonathan Sanchez Slender lefty has a sneaky fastball and a tremendous changeup.

RHP Billy Sadler Battled wildness and became a fast-track relief prospect when he started throwing strikes with regularity.

1B Travis Ishikawa Smooth-fielding first baseman had some clutch hits in pair of call-ups last season.

OF Fred Lewis Dynamic athlete had to take the slow road, but he's on the doorstep of the big leagues now.

3B Angel Villalona It'll be years before he arrives in San Francisco, but he's a special talent.

Bonds: Steve Moore; Lincecum: Bill Mitchell

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Bruce Bochy **COACHES:** Tim Flannery, Mark Gardner, Joe Lefebvre, Dave Righetti, Willie Upshaw, Ron Wotus

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
60	Kelyn Acosta	R-R	4/24/85	San Jose (A)	0-1	6.75	6	0	9.1	11
				AZL Giants (R)	0-0	0.00	1	0	0.2	0
49	Armando Benitez	R-R	11/3/72	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**4-2**	**3.52**	**41**	**17**	**38.1**	**31**
43	Matt Cain	R-R	10/1/84	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**13-12**	**4.15**	**32**	**0**	**192.2**	**179**
31	Vinnie Chulk	R-R	12/19/78	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**0-3**	**5.24**	**28**	**0**	**22.1**	**25**
				TORONTO	**1-0**	**5.25**	**20**	**0**	**24.0**	**18**
				Syracuse (AAA)	3-2	2.25	19	1	32.0	43
53	Kevin Correia	R-R	8/24/80	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**2-0**	**3.49**	**48**	**0**	**69.2**	**57**
41	Brad Hennessey	R-R	2/7/80	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**5-6**	**4.26**	**34**	**1**	**99.1**	**42**
				Fresno (AAA)	0-1	2.53	2	0	10.2	7
34	Steve Kline	R-L	8/22/72	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**4-3**	**3.66**	**72**	**1**	**51.2**	**33**
51	Noah Lowry	R-L	10/10/80	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**7-10**	**4.74**	**27**	**0**	**159.1**	**84**
				Fresno (AAA)	0-0	4.50	1	0	6.0	6
				San Jose (A)	0-0	0.00	1	0	4.2	9
	Osiris Matos	R-R	11/6/84	Connecticut (AA)	0-0	3.72	6	2	9.2	5
				Augusta (A)	7-3	1.77	44	13	61.0	81
71	Pat Misch	R-L	8/18/81	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**0-0**	**0.00**	**1**	**0**	**1.0**	**1**
				Fresno (AAA)	4-2	4.02	10	0	65.0	57
				Connecticut (AA)	5-4	2.26	18	0	103.2	79
35	Matt Morris	R-R	8/9/74	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**10-15**	**4.98**	**33**	**0**	**207.2**	**117**
54	Scott Munter	R-R	3/7/80	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**0-1**	**8.74**	**27**	**0**	**22.2**	**7**
				Connecticut (AA)	1-4	4.73	28	1	40.0	22
	Russ Ortiz	R-R	6/5/74	**ARIZONA**	**0-5**	**7.54**	**6**	**0**	**22.2**	**21**
				BALTIMORE	**0-3**	**8.48**	**20**	**0**	**40.3**	**23**
59	Billy Sadler	R-R	9/21/81	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**0-0**	**6.75**	**5**	**0**	**4.0**	**6**
				Fresno (AAA)	2-0	1.80	7	1	10.0	12
				Connecticut (AA)	4-3	2.62	43	20	44.2	66
53	Jonathan Sanchez	L-L	11/19/82	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**3-1**	**4.95**	**27**	**0**	**40.0**	**33**
				Fresno (AAA)	2-2	3.80	6	0	23.2	28
				Connecticut (AA)	2-1	1.15	13	2	31.1	46
37	Jack Taschner	L-L	4/21/78	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**0-1**	**8.38**	**24**	**0**	**19.1**	**15**
				Fresno (AAA)	6-7	3.65	45	14	49.1	68
57	Erick Threets	L-L	11/4/81	Fresno (AAA)	2-1	2.86	49	0	63.0	51
65	Merkin Valdez	R-R	11/5/81	Fresno (AAA)	0-4	5.86	47	5	50.2	50
33	Brian Wilson	R-R	3/16/82	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**2-3**	**5.40**	**31**	**1**	**30.0**	**23**
				Fresno (AAA)	1-3	2.89	24	7	28.0	30
				San Jose (A)	0-0	9.00	1	0	1.0	1
75	Barry Zito	L-L	5/13/78	**OAKLAND**	**16-10**	**3.83**	**34**	**0**	**221.0**	**151**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
50	Eliezer Alfonzo	R-R	2/7/79	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.266**	**87**	**286**	**27**	**12**	**39**	**1**
				Fresno (AAA)	.189	24	74	5	2	6	0
				Connecticut (AA)	262	20	65	8	0	7	1
22	Mike Matheny	R-R	9/22/70	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.231**	**47**	**160**	**10**	**3**	**18**	**0**
1	Bengie Molina	R-R	7/20/74	**TORONTO**	**.284**	**117**	**433**	**44**	**19**	**57**	**1**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
33	Rich Aurilia	R-R	9/2/71	**CINCINNATI**	**.300**	**122**	**440**	**61**	**23**	**70**	**3**
5	Ray Durham	S-R	11/30/71	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.293**	**137**	**498**	**79**	**26**	**93**	**7**
7	Pedro Feliz	R-R	4/27/75	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.244**	**160**	**603**	**75**	**22**	**98**	**1**
19	Kevin Frandsen	R-R	5/24/82	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.215**	**41**	**93**	**12**	**2**	**7**	**0**
				Fresno (AAA)	.307	71	293	47	3	30	7
				San Jose (A)	.429	2	7	1	0	1	0
64	Travis Ishikawa	L-L	9/24/83	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.292**	**12**	**24**	**1**	**0**	**4**	**0**
				Connecticut (AA)	.232	86	298	33	10	42	0
	Ryan Klesko	L-L	6/12/71	**SAN DIEGO**	**.750**	**6**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**
				Lake Elsinore (A)	.273	8	22	2	0	1	0
28	Lance Niekro	R-R	1/29/79	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.246**	**66**	**199**	**27**	**5**	**31**	**0**
				Fresno (AAA)	.319	36	144	27	14	34	0
9	Mark Sweeney	L-L	10/26/69	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.251**	**114**	**259**	**32**	**5**	**37**	**0**
	Eugenio Velez	S-R	5/16/82	Augusta (A)	.318	126	459	91	14	90	64
13	Omar Vizquel	S-R	4/24/67	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.295**	**153**	**579**	**88**	**4**	**58**	**24**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
25	Barry Bonds	L-L	7/12/64	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.270**	**130**	**367**	**74**	**26**	**77**	**3**
21	Jason Ellison	R-R	4/4/78	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.222**	**84**	**81**	**14**	**2**	**4**	**2**
				Fresno (AAA)	.406	46	192	41	1	18	7
32	Frederick Lewis	L-R	12/9/80	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.455**	**13**	**11**	**5**	**0**	**2**	**0**
				Fresno (AAA)	.276	120	438	85	12	57	18
39	Todd Linden	S-R	6/30/80	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.273**	**61**	**77**	**15**	**2**	**5**	**1**
				Fresno (AAA)	.283	52	187	32	5	24	5
40	Daniel Ortmeier	S-L	5/11/81	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.250**	**9**	**12**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**
				Fresno (AAA)	.244	68	262	37	6	33	8
				Connecticut (AA)	.251	47	167	17	2	11	7
10	Dave Roberts	L-L	5/31/72	**SAN DIEGO**	**.293**	**129**	**499**	**80**	**2**	**44**	**49**
				Lake Elsinore (A)	.333	1	3	0	0	0	0
46	Nate Schierholtz	L-R	2/15/84	Connecticut (AA)	.268	125	470	55	14	54	8
2	Randy Winn	S-R	6/9/74	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.262**	**149**	**573**	**82**	**11**	**56**	**10**

2007 MLB Schedules

presented by Wrangler

NL EAST

NL CENTRAL

ATLANTA BRAVES (ATL)

Apr. 2, 4, 5	at PHI
Apr. 6, 7, 8	NYM
Apr. 10, 11, 12	WAS
Apr. 13, 14, 15	FLA
Apr. 16, 17	at WAS
Apr. 18, 19	CHC
Apr. 20, 21, 22	at NYM
Apr. 23, 24, 25	at FLA
Apr. 27, 28, 29	at COL
Apr. 30, May 1, 2	PHI
May 4, 5, 6	LAD
May 7, 8, 9, 10	SD
May 11, 12, 13	at PIT
May 14, 15, 16, 17	at WAS
May 18, 19, 20	at BOS
May 22, 23, 24	NYM
May 25, 26, 27	PHI
May 28, 29, 30	at MIL
June 1, 2, 3	at CHC
June 4, 5, 6	FLA
June 7, 8, 9, 10	CHC
June 12, 13, 14	at MIN
June 15, 16, 17	at CLE
June 18, 19, 20	BOS
June 22, 23, 24	DET
June 25, 26, 27	WAS
June 29, 30, July 1	at FLA
July 2, 3, 4, 5	at LAD
July 6, 7, 8	at SD
July 13, 14, 15	PIT
July 16, 17, 18	CIN
July 19, 20, 21, 22	STL
July 23, 24, 25, 26	at SF
July 27, 28, 29	at ARI
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	HOU
Aug. 3, 4, 5	COL
Aug. 7, 8, 9	at NYM
Aug. 10, 11, 12	at PHI
Aug. 14, 15, 16	SF
Aug. 17, 18, 19	ARI
Aug. 20, 21, 22, 23	at CIN
Aug. 24, 25, 26	at STL
Aug. 27, 28, 29	at FLA
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	NYM
Sept. 3, 4, 5	PHI
Sept. 7, 8, 9	WAS
Sept. 10, 11, 12	at NYM
Sept. 14, 15, 16	at WAS
Sept. 17, 18, 19	FLA
Sept. 20, 21, 22, 23	MIL
Sept. 25, 26, 27	at PHI
Sept. 28, 29, 30	at HOU

FLORIDA MARLINS (FLA)

Apr. 2, 3, 4	at WAS
Apr. 6, 7, 8	PHI
Apr. 9, 10, 11	MIL
Apr. 13, 14, 15	at ATL
Apr. 16, 17	at HOU
Apr. 18, 19	NYM
Apr. 20, 21, 22	WAS
Apr. 23, 24, 25	ATL
Apr. 27, 28, 29	at PHI
Apr. 30, May 1, 2	at NYM
May 4, 5, 6	SD
May 7, 8, 9, 10	LAD
May 11, 12, 13	at WAS
May 14, 15, 16, 17	at PIT
May 18, 19, 20	at TB
May 22, 23, 24	PHI
May 25, 26, 27	NYM
May 28, 29, 30	at CHC
May 31, June 1, 2, 3	at MIL
June 4, 5, 6	at ATL
June 8, 9, 10	TB
June 12, 13, 14	CLE
June 15, 16, 17	at KC
June 18, 19, 20	at CWS
June 22, 23, 24	MIN
June 26, 27, 28	PIT
June 29, 30, July 1	ATL
July 2, 3, 4, 5	at SD
July 6, 7, 8	at LAD
July 13, 14, 15	WAS
July 16, 17, 18	STL
July 19, 20, 21, 22	CIN
July 23, 24, 25, 26	at ARI
July 27, 28, 29	at SF
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	COL
Aug. 3, 4, 5	HOU
Aug. 7, 8, 9	at PHI
Aug. 10, 11, 12	at NYM
Aug. 14, 15, 16	ARI
Aug. 17, 18, 19, 20	SF
Aug. 21, 22, 23	at STL
Aug. 24, 25, 26	at CIN
Aug. 27, 28, 29	ATL
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	PHI
Sept. 3, 4, 5	at WAS
Sept. 7, 8, 9	at PHI
Sept. 10, 11, 12	WAS
Sept. 14, 15, 16	at COL
Sept. 17, 18, 19	at ATL
Sept. 20, 21, 22, 23	NYM
Sept. 25, 26, 27	CHC
Sept. 28, 29, 30	at NYM

NEW YORK METS (NYM)

Apr. 1, 3, 4	at STL
Apr. 6, 7, 8	at ATL
Apr. 9, 11, 12	PHI
Apr. 13, 14, 15	WAS
Apr. 16, 17	at PHI
Apr. 18, 19	at FLA
Apr. 20, 21, 22	ATL
Apr. 23, 24, 25	COL
Apr. 27, 28, 29	at WAS
Apr. 30, May 1, 2	FLA
May 3, 4, 5, 6	at ARI
May 7, 8, 9	at SF
May 11, 12, 13	MIL
May 14, 15, 16, 17	CHC
May 18, 19, 20	NYY
May 22, 23, 24	at ATL
May 25, 26, 27	at FLA
May 29, 30, 31	SF
June 1, 2, 3	ARI
June 5, 6, 7	PHI
June 8, 9, 10	at DET
June 11, 12, 13	at LAD
June 15, 16, 17	at NYY
June 18, 19, 20	MIN
June 22, 23, 24	OAK
June 25, 26, 27, 28	STL
June 29, 30, July 1	at PHI
July 2, 3, 4	at COL
July 5, 6, 7, 8	at HOU
July 12, 13, 14, 15	CIN
July 16, 17, 18	at SD
July 19, 20, 21, 22	at LAD
July 24, 25, 26	PIT
July 27, 28, 29	WAS
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	at MIL
Aug. 3, 4, 5	at CHC
Aug. 7, 8, 9	ATL
Aug. 10, 11, 12	FLA
Aug. 14, 15, 16	at PIT
Aug. 17, 18, 19	at WAS
Aug. 21, 22, 23	SD
Aug. 24, 25, 26	LAD
Aug. 27, 28, 29, 30	at PHI
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	at ATL
Sept. 3, 4, 5	at CIN
Sept. 7, 8, 9	HOU
Sept. 10, 11, 12	ATL
Sept. 14, 15, 16	PHI
Sept. 17, 18, 19	at WAS
Sept. 20, 21, 22, 23	at FLA
Sept. 24, 25, 26	WAS
Sept. 28, 29, 30	FLA

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES (PHI)

Apr. 2, 4, 5	ATL
Apr. 6, 7, 8	at FLA
Apr. 9, 11, 12	at NYM
Apr. 13, 14, 15	HOU
Apr. 16, 17	NYM
Apr. 18, 19	at WAS
Apr. 20, 21, 22	at CIN
Apr. 24, 25, 26	WAS
Apr. 27, 28, 29	FLA
Apr. 30, May 1, 2	at ATL
May 3, 4, 5, 6	at SF
May 7, 8, 9	at ARI
May 11, 12, 13	CHC
May 14, 15, 16, 17	MIL
May 18, 19, 20	TOR
May 22, 23, 24	at FLA
May 25, 26, 27	at ATL
May 28, 29, 30	ARI
June 1, 2, 3, 4	SF
June 5, 6, 7	at NYM
June 8, 9, 10	at KC
June 11, 12, 13	CWS
June 15, 16, 17	DET
June 18, 19, 20	at CLE
June 22, 23, 24	at STL
June 26, 27, 28	CIN
June 29, 30, July 1	NYM
July 2, 3, 4	at HOU
July 6, 7, 8	at COL
July 13, 14, 15	STL
July 16, 17, 18	at LAD
July 19, 20, 21, 22	at SD
July 24, 25, 26	WAS
July 27, 28, 29	PIT
July 30, 31, Aug. 1, 2	at CHC
Aug. 3, 4, 5	at MIL
Aug. 7, 8, 9	FLA
Aug. 10, 11, 12	ATL
Aug. 14, 15, 16	at WAS
Aug. 17, 18, 19	at PIT
Aug. 21, 22, 23	LAD
Aug. 24, 25, 26	SD
Aug. 27, 28, 29, 30	NYM
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	at FLA
Sept. 3, 4, 5	at ATL
Sept. 7, 8, 9	FLA
Sept. 10, 11, 12, 13	COL
Sept. 14, 15, 16	at NYM
Sept. 17, 18, 19	at STL
Sept. 20, 21, 22, 23	at WAS
Sept. 25, 26, 27	ATL
Sept. 28, 29, 30	WAS

WASHINGTON NATIONALS (WAS)

Apr. 2, 3, 4	FLA
Apr. 5, 6, 7, 8	ARI
Apr. 10, 11, 12	at ATL
Apr. 13, 14, 15	at NYM
Apr. 16, 17	ATL
Apr. 18, 19	PHI
Apr. 20, 21, 22	at FLA
Apr. 24, 25, 26	at PHI
Apr. 27, 28, 29	NYM
Apr. 30, May 1, 2	at SD
May 4, 5, 6	at CHC
May 7, 8, 9	at MIL
May 11, 12, 13	FLA
May 14, 15, 16, 17	ATL
May 18, 19, 20	BAL
May 21, 22, 23, 24	at CIN
May 25, 26, 27	at STL
May 29, 30, 31	LAD
June 1, 2, 3	SD
June 5, 6, 7	PIT
June 8, 9, 10	at MIN
June 12, 13, 14	at BAL
June 15, 16, 17	at TOR
June 18, 19, 20	DET
June 22, 23, 24	CLE
June 25, 26, 27	at ATL
June 29, 30, July 1	at PIT
July 2, 3, 4, 5	CHC
July 6, 7, 8	MIL
July 13, 14, 15	at FLA
July 16, 17, 18	HOU
July 19, 20, 21, 22	COL
July 24, 25, 26	at PHI
July 27, 28, 29	at NYM
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	CIN
Aug. 3, 4, 5	STL
Aug. 6, 7, 8, 9	at SF
Aug. 10, 11, 12	at ARI
Aug. 14, 15, 16	PHI
Aug. 17, 18, 19	NYM
Aug. 20, 21, 22, 23	at HOU
Aug. 24, 25, 26	at COL
Aug. 27, 28, 29	at LAD
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	SF
Sept. 3, 4, 5	FLA
Sept. 7, 8, 9	at ATL
Sept. 10, 11, 12	at FLA
Sept. 14, 15, 16	ATL
Sept. 17, 18, 19	NYM
Sept. 20, 21, 22, 23	PHI
Sept. 24, 25, 26	at NYM
Sept. 28, 29, 30	at PHI

CHICAGO CUBS (CHC)

Apr. 2, 4, 5	at CIN
Apr. 6, 7, 8	at MIL
Apr. 9, 10, 11	HOU
Apr. 13, 14, 15	CIN
Apr. 16, 17	SD
Apr. 18, 19	at ATL
Apr. 20, 21, 22	STL
Apr. 23, 24, 25	MIL
Apr. 27, 28, 29	at STL
Apr. 30, May 1, 2	at PIT
May 4, 5, 6	WAS
May 8, 9, 10	PIT
May 11, 12, 13	at PHI
May 14, 15, 16, 17	at NYM
May 18, 19, 20	CWS
May 22, 23, 24	at SD
May 25, 26, 27	at LAD
May 28, 29, 30	FLA
June 1, 2, 3	ATL
June 4, 5, 6	at MIL
June 7, 8, 9, 10	at ATL
June 12, 13, 14	SEA
June 15, 16, 17	SD
June 19, 20, 21	at TEX
June 22, 23, 24	at CWS
June 25, 26, 27	COL
June 29, 30, July 1	MIL
July 2, 3, 4, 5	at WAS
July 6, 7, 8	at PIT
July 13, 14, 15	HOU
July 16, 17, 18, 19	SF
July 20, 21, 22	ARI
July 24, 25, 26	at STL
July 27, 28, 29	at CIN
July 30, 31, Aug. 1, 2	PHI
Aug. 3, 4, 5	NYM
Aug. 6, 7, 8	at HOU
Aug. 9, 10, 11, 12	at COL
Aug. 14, 15, 16	CIN
Aug. 17, 18, 19, 20	STL
Aug. 21, 22, 23	at SF
Aug. 24, 25, 26	at ARI
Aug. 28, 29, 30	MIL
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	HOU
Sept. 3, 4, 5, 6	LAD
Sept. 7, 8, 9	at PIT
Sept. 11, 12, 13	at HOU
Sept. 14, 15, 16	at STL
Sept. 17, 18, 19	CIN
Sept. 21, 22, 23	PIT
Sept. 24, 25, 26, 27	at FLA
Sept. 28, 29, 30	at CIN

CINCINNATI REDS (CIN)

Apr. 2, 4, 5	CHC
Apr. 6, 7, 8	PIT
Apr. 9, 10, 11	at ARI
Apr. 13, 14, 15	at CHC
Apr. 16, 17	MIL
Apr. 18, 19	HOU
Apr. 20, 21, 22	PHI
Apr. 24, 25, 26	at STL
Apr. 27, 28, 29	at PIT
May 1, 2, 3	at HOU
May 4, 5, 6	COL
May 7, 8, 9, 10	HOU
May 11, 12, 13	at LAD
May 14, 15, 16	at SD
May 18, 19, 20	at CLE
May 21, 22, 23, 24	WAS
May 25, 26, 27, 28	PIT
May 29, 30, 31	at HOU
June 1, 2, 3	at COL
June 5, 6, 7	at STL
June 8, 9, 10	CLE
June 12, 13, 14	LAA
June 15, 16, 17	TEX
June 18, 19, 20	at OAK
June 22, 23, 24	at SEA
June 26, 27, 28	at PHI
June 29, 30, July 1	STL
July 3, 4, 5	SF
July 6, 7, 8	ARI
July 12, 13, 14, 15	at NYM
July 16, 17, 18	at ATL
July 19, 20, 21, 22	at FLA
July 23, 24, 25, 26	MIL
July 27, 28, 29	CHC
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	at WAS
Aug. 3, 4, 5	at PIT
Aug. 7, 8, 9	LAD
Aug. 10, 11, 12	SD
Aug. 14, 15, 16	at CHC
Aug. 17, 18, 19	at MIL
Aug. 20, 21, 22, 23	ATL
Aug. 24, 25, 26	FLA
Aug. 28, 29, 30	at PIT
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	at STL
Sept. 3, 4, 5	NYM
Sept. 7, 8, 9	MIL
Sept. 11, 12, 13	STL
Sept. 14, 15, 16	at MIL
Sept. 17, 18, 19	at CHC
Sept. 20, 21, 22, 23	at SF
Sept. 25, 26, 27	HOU
Sept. 28, 29, 30	CHC

HOUSTON ASTROS (HOU)

Apr. 2, 3, 4	PIT
Apr. 6, 7, 8	STL
Apr. 9, 10, 11	at CHC
Apr. 13, 14, 15	at PHI
Apr. 16, 17	FLA
Apr. 18, 19	at CIN
Apr. 20, 21, 22	at MIL
Apr. 24, 25, 26	at PIT
Apr. 27, 28, 29	MIL
May 1, 2, 3	CIN
May 4, 5, 6	at STL
May 7, 8, 9, 10	at CIN
May 11, 12, 13	ARI
May 15, 16, 17	SF
May 18, 19, 20	TEX
May 21, 22, 23	at SF
May 24, 25, 26, 27	at ARI
May 29, 30, 31	CIN
June 1, 2, 3	STL
June 5, 6, 7	at COL
June 8, 9, 10	at CWS
June 12, 13, 14	OAK
June 15, 16, 17	SEA
June 18, 19, 20	at LAA
June 22, 23, 24	at TEX
June 25, 26, 27	at MIL
June 28, 29, 30, July 1	COL
July 2, 3, 4	PHI
July 5, 6, 7, 8	NYM
July 13, 14, 15	at CHC
July 16, 17, 18	at WAS
July 20, 21, 22	at PIT
July 23, 24, 25, 26	LAD
July 26, 27, 28, 29	SD
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	at ATL
Aug. 3, 4, 5	at FLA
Aug. 6, 7, 8	CHC
Aug. 10, 11, 12	MIL
Aug. 13, 14, 15, 16	at LAD
Aug. 17, 18, 19	at SD
Aug. 20, 21, 22, 23	WAS
Aug. 24, 25, 26	PIT
Aug. 28, 29, 30	at STL
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	at CHC
Sept. 3, 4, 5	at MIL
Sept. 7, 8, 9	at NYM
Sept. 11, 12, 13	CHC
Sept. 14, 15, 16	PIT
Sept. 17, 18, 19	MIL
Sept. 20, 21, 22, 23	at STL
Sept. 25, 26, 27	at CIN
Sept. 28, 29, 30	ATL

MILWAUKEE BREWERS (MIL)

Apr. 2, 3, 4	LAD
Apr. 6, 7, 8	CHC
Apr. 9, 10, 11	at FLA
Apr. 13, 14, 15	at STL
Apr. 16, 17	at CIN
Apr. 18, 19	PIT
Apr. 20, 21, 22	HOU
Apr. 23, 24, 25	at CHC
Apr. 27, 28, 29	at HOU
Apr. 30, May 1, 2	STL
May 3, 4, 5, 6	PIT
May 7, 8, 9	WAS
May 11, 12, 13	at NYM
May 14, 15, 16, 17	at PHI
May 18, 19, 20	MIN
May 21, 22, 23	at LAD
May 25, 26, 27	at SD
May 28, 29, 30	ATL
May 31, June 1, 2, 3	FLA
June 4, 5, 6	CHC
June 8, 9, 10	at TEX
June 12, 13, 14	at DET
June 15, 16, 17	at MIN
June 18, 19, 20	SF
June 22, 23, 24	KC
June 25, 26, 27	HOU
June 29, 30, July 1	at CHC
July 2, 3, 4, 5	at PIT
July 6, 7, 8	at WAS
July 13, 14, 15	COL
July 16, 17, 18, 19	ARI
July 20, 21, 22	SF
July 23, 24, 25, 26	at CIN
July 27, 28, 29	at STL
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	NYM
Aug. 3, 4, 5	PHI
Aug. 6, 7, 8	at COL
Aug. 10, 11, 12	at HOU
Aug. 14, 15, 16	STL
Aug. 17, 18, 19	CIN
Aug. 20, 21, 22	at ARI
Aug. 24, 25, 26	at SF
Aug. 28, 29, 30	at CHC
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	PIT
Sept. 3, 4, 5	HOU
Sept. 7, 8, 9	at CIN
Sept. 10, 11, 12	at PIT
Sept. 14, 15, 16	CIN
Sept. 17, 18, 19	at HOU
Sept. 20, 21, 22, 23	at ATL
Sept. 24, 25, 26	STL
Sept. 27, 28, 29, 30	SD

PITTSBURGH PIRATES (PIT)

Apr. 2, 3, 4	at HOU
Apr. 6, 7, 8	at CIN
Apr. 9, 10, 11	STL
Apr. 13, 14, 15	SF
Apr. 16, 17	at STL
Apr. 18, 19	at MIL
Apr. 20, 21, 22	at LAD
Apr. 24, 25, 26	HOU
Apr. 27, 28, 29	CIN
Apr. 30, May 1, 2	CHC
May 3, 4, 5, 6	at MIL
May 8, 9, 10	at CHC
May 11, 12, 13	ATL
May 14, 15, 16, 17	FLA
May 18, 19, 20	ARI
May 22, 23, 24	at STL
May 25, 26, 27, 28	at CIN
May 29, 30, 31	SD
June 1, 2, 3, 4	LAD
June 5, 6, 7	at WAS
June 8, 9, 10	at NYY
June 12, 13, 14	TEX
June 15, 16, 17	CWS
June 19, 20, 21	at SEA
June 22, 23, 24	at LAA
June 26, 27, 28	at FLA
June 29, 30, July 1	WAS
July 2, 3, 4, 5	MIL
July 6, 7, 8	CHC
July 13, 14, 15	at ATL
July 16, 17, 18	COL
July 20, 21, 22	HOU
July 24, 25, 26	at NYM
July 27, 28, 29	at PHI
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	STL
Aug. 3, 4, 5	CIN
Aug. 7, 8, 9	at ARI
Aug. 10, 11, 12	at SF
Aug. 14, 15, 16	NYM
Aug. 17, 18, 19	PHI
Aug. 20, 21, 22, 23	at COL
Aug. 24, 25, 26	at HOU
Aug. 28, 29, 30	CIN
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	at MIL
Sept. 3, 4, 5, 6	at STL
Sept. 7, 8, 9	CHC
Sept. 10, 11, 12	MIL
Sept. 14, 15, 16	at HOU
Sept. 17, 18, 19, 20	at SD
Sept. 21, 22, 23	at CHC
Sept. 25, 26, 27	ARI
Sept. 28, 29, 30	STL

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS (STL)

Apr. 1, 3, 4	NYM
Apr. 6, 7, 8	at HOU
Apr. 9, 10, 11	at PIT
Apr. 13, 14, 15	MIL
Apr. 16, 17	PIT
Apr. 18, 19	at SF
Apr. 20, 21, 22	at CHC
Apr. 24, 25, 26	CIN
Apr. 27, 28, 29	CHC
Apr. 30, May 1, 2	at MIL
May 4, 5, 6	HOU
May 7, 8, 9	COL
May 11, 12, 13	at SD
May 14, 15, 16	at LAD
May 18, 19, 20	at DET
May 22, 23, 24	PIT
May 25, 26, 27	WAS
May 28, 29, 30, 31	at COL
June 1, 2, 3	at HOU
June 5, 6, 7	CIN
June 8, 9, 10	LAA
June 12, 13, 14	at KC
June 15, 16, 17	at OAK
June 18, 19, 20	KC
June 22, 23, 24	PHI
June 25, 26, 27, 28	at NYM
June 29, 30, July 1	at CIN
July 2, 3, 4, 5	ARI
July 6, 7, 8	SF
July 13, 14, 15	at PHI
July 16, 17, 18	at FLA
July 19, 20, 21, 22	at ATL
July 24, 25, 26	CHC
July 27, 28, 29	MIL
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	at PIT
Aug. 3, 4, 5	at WAS
Aug. 6, 7, 8, 9	SD
Aug. 10, 11, 12	LAD
Aug. 14, 15, 16	at MIL
Aug. 17, 18, 19, 20	at CHC
Aug. 21, 22, 23	FLA
Aug. 24, 25, 26	ATL
Aug. 28, 29, 30	at HOU
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	CIN
Sept. 3, 4, 5, 6	PIT
Sept. 7, 8, 9	at ARI
Sept. 11, 12, 13	at CIN
Sept. 14, 15, 16	CHC
Sept. 17, 18, 19	PHI
Sept. 20, 21, 22, 23	HOU
Sept. 24, 25, 26	at MIL
Sept. 28, 29, 30	at PIT

Wrangler Real. Comfortable. Jeans.

NL WEST

AL EAST

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS (ARI)

Apr. 2, 3, 4	at COL
Apr. 5, 6, 7, 8	at WAS
Apr. 9, 10, 11	CIN
Apr. 13, 14, 15	COL
Apr. 16, 17	LAD
Apr. 18, 19	at SD
Apr. 20, 21, 22	at SF
Apr. 24, 25, 26	SD
Apr. 27, 28, 29	SF
Apr. 30, May 1, 2	at LAD
May 3, 4, 5, 6	NYM
May 7, 8, 9	PHI
May 11, 12, 13	at HOU
May 15, 16, 17	at COL
May 18, 19, 20	at PIT
May 21, 22, 23	COL
May 24, 25, 26, 27	HOU
May 28, 29, 30	at PHI
June 1, 2, 3	at NYM
June 5, 6, 7	SF
June 8, 9, 10	BOS
June 12, 13, 14	at NYY
June 15, 16, 17	at BAL
June 18, 19, 20	TB
June 22, 23, 24	BAL
June 25, 26, 27, 28	LAD
June 29, 30, July 1	at SF
July 2, 3, 4, 5	at STL
July 6, 7, 8	at CIN
July 13, 14, 15	SD
July 16, 17, 18, 19	at MIL
July 20, 21, 22	at CHC
July 23, 24, 25, 26	FLA
July 27, 28, 29	ATL
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	at SD
Aug. 3, 4, 5	at LAD
Aug. 7, 8, 9	PIT
Aug. 10, 11, 12	WAS
Aug. 14, 15, 16	at FLA
Aug. 17, 18, 19	at ATL
Aug. 20, 21, 22	MIL
Aug. 24, 25, 26	CHC
Aug. 27, 28, 29, 30	at SD
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	COL
Sept. 3, 4, 5	SD
Sept. 7, 8, 9	STL
Sept. 10, 11, 12	at SF
Sept. 14, 15, 16	at LAD
Sept. 17, 18, 19	SF
Sept. 21, 22, 23	LAD
Sept. 25, 26, 27	at PIT
Sept. 28, 29, 30	at COL

COLORADO ROCKIES (COL)

Apr. 2, 3, 4	ARI
Apr. 6, 7, 8	at SD
Apr. 9, 10, 11	at LAD
Apr. 13, 14, 15	at ARI
Apr. 16, 17	SF
Apr. 18, 19	LAD
Apr. 20, 21, 22	SD
Apr. 23, 24, 25	at NYM
Apr. 27, 28, 29	ATL
Apr. 30, May 1, 2	at SF
May 4, 5, 6	at CIN
May 7, 8, 9	at STL
May 10, 11, 12, 13	SF
May 15, 16, 17	ARI
May 18, 19, 20	KC
May 21, 22, 23	at ARI
May 25, 26, 27	at SF
May 28, 29, 30, 31	STL
June 1, 2, 3	CIN
June 5, 6, 7	HOU
June 8, 9, 10	at BAL
June 12, 13, 14	at BOS
June 15, 16, 17	TB
June 19, 20, 21	NYY
June 22, 23, 24	at TOR
June 25, 26, 27	at CHC
June 28, 29, 30, July 1	at HOU
July 2, 3, 4	NYM
July 6, 7, 8	PHI
July 13, 14, 15	at MIL
July 16, 17, 18	at PIT
July 19, 20, 21, 22	at WAS
July 23, 24, 25	SD
July 26, 27, 28, 29	LAD
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	at FLA
Aug. 3, 4, 5	at ATL
Aug. 6, 7, 8	MIL
Aug. 9, 10, 11, 12	CHC
Aug. 14, 15, 16	at SD
Aug. 17, 18, 19	at LAD
Aug. 20, 21, 22, 23	PIT
Aug. 24, 25, 26	WAS
Aug. 27, 28, 29	at SF
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	at ARI
Sept. 3, 4, 5	SF
Sept. 7, 8, 9	SD
Sept. 10, 11, 12, 13	at PHI
Sept. 14, 15, 16	FLA
Sept. 18, 19, 20	LAD
Sept. 21, 22, 23	at SD
Sept. 25, 26, 27	at LAD
Sept. 28, 29, 30	ARI

LOS ANGELES DODGERS (LAD)

Apr. 2, 3, 4	at MIL
Apr. 6, 7, 8	at SF
Apr. 9, 10, 11	COL
Apr. 13, 14, 15	SD
Apr. 16, 17	at ARI
Apr. 18, 19	at COL
Apr. 20, 21, 22	PIT
Apr. 24, 25, 26	SF
Apr. 27, 28, 29	at SD
Apr. 30, May 1, 2	ARI
May 4, 5, 6	at ATL
May 7, 8, 9, 10	at FLA
May 11, 12, 13	CIN
May 14, 15, 16	STL
May 18, 19, 20	at LAA
May 21, 22, 23	MIL
May 25, 26, 27	CHC
May 29, 30, 31	at WAS
June 1, 2, 3, 4	at PIT
June 5, 6, 7	at SD
June 8, 9, 10	TOR
June 11, 12, 13	NYM
June 15, 16, 17	LAA
June 19, 20, 21	at TOR
June 22, 23, 24	at TB
June 25, 26, 27, 28	at ARI
June 29, 30, July 1	SD
July 2, 3, 4, 5	ATL
July 6, 7, 8	FLA
July 13, 14, 15	at SF
July 16, 17, 18	PHI
July 19, 20, 21, 22	NYM
July 23, 24, 25	at HOU
July 26, 27, 28, 29	at COL
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	SF
Aug. 3, 4, 5	ARI
Aug. 7, 8, 9	at CIN
Aug. 10, 11, 12	at STL
Aug. 13, 14, 15, 16	HOU
Aug. 17, 18, 19	COL
Aug. 21, 22, 23	at PHI
Aug. 24, 25, 26	at NYM
Aug. 27, 28, 29	WAS
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	at SD
Sept. 3, 4, 5, 6	at CHC
Sept. 7, 8, 9	at SF
Sept. 11, 12, 13	SD
Sept. 14, 15, 16	ARI
Sept. 18, 19, 20	at COL
Sept. 21, 22, 23	at ARI
Sept. 25, 26, 27	COL
Sept. 28, 29, 30	SF

SAN DIEGO PADRES (SD)

Apr. 3, 4, 5	at SF
Apr. 6, 7, 8	COL
Apr. 9, 10, 11	SF
Apr. 13, 14, 15	at LAD
Apr. 16, 17	at CHC
Apr. 18, 19	ARI
Apr. 20, 21, 22	at COL
Apr. 24, 25, 26	at ARI
Apr. 27, 28, 29	LAD
Apr. 30, May 1, 2	WAS
May 4, 5, 6	at FLA
May 7, 8, 9, 10	at ATL
May 11, 12, 13	STL
May 14, 15, 16	CIN
May 18, 19, 20	at SEA
May 22, 23, 24	CHC
May 25, 26, 27	MIL
May 29, 30, 31	at PIT
June 1, 2, 3	at WAS
June 5, 6, 7	LAD
June 8, 9, 10	SEA
June 12, 13, 14	at TB
June 15, 16, 17	at CHC
June 19, 20, 21	BAL
June 22, 23, 24	BOS
June 25, 26, 27	at SF
June 29, 30, July 1	at LAD
July 2, 3, 4, 5	FLA
July 6, 7, 8	ATL
July 13, 14, 15	at ARI
July 16, 17, 18	NYM
July 19, 20, 21, 22	PHI
July 23, 24, 25	at COL
July 26, 27, 28, 29	at HOU
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	ARI
Aug. 3, 4, 5	SF
Aug. 6, 7, 8, 9	at STL
Aug. 10, 11, 12	at CIN
Aug. 14, 15, 16	COL
Aug. 17, 18, 19	HOU
Aug. 21, 22, 23	at NYM
Aug. 24, 25, 26	at PHI
Aug. 27, 28, 29, 30	ARI
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	LAD
Sept. 3, 4, 5	at ARI
Sept. 7, 8, 9	at COL
Sept. 11, 12, 13	at LAD
Sept. 14, 15, 16	SF
Sept. 17, 18, 19, 20	PIT
Sept. 21, 22, 23	COL
Sept. 24, 25, 26	at SF
Sept. 27, 28, 29, 30	at MIL

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS (SF)

Apr. 3, 4, 5	SD
Apr. 6, 7, 8	LAD
Apr. 9, 10, 11	at SD
Apr. 13, 14, 15	at PIT
Apr. 16, 17	at COL
Apr. 18, 19	STL
Apr. 20, 21, 22	ARI
Apr. 24, 25, 26	at LAD
Apr. 27, 28, 29	at ARI
Apr. 30, May 1, 2	COL
May 3, 4, 5, 6	PHI
May 7, 8, 9	NYM
May 10, 11, 12, 13	at COL
May 15, 16, 17	at HOU
May 18, 19, 20	at OAK
May 21, 22, 23	HOU
May 25, 26, 27	COL
May 29, 30, 31	at NYM
June 1, 2, 3, 4	at PHI
June 5, 6, 7	at ARI
June 8, 9, 10	OAK
June 11, 12, 13	TOR
June 15, 16, 17	at BOS
June 18, 19, 20	at MIL
June 22, 23, 24	NYY
June 25, 26, 27	SD
June 29, 30, July 1	ARI
July 3, 4, 5	at CIN
July 6, 7, 8	at STL
July 13, 14, 15	LAD
July 16, 17, 18, 19	at CHC
July 20, 21, 22	at MIL
July 23, 24, 25, 26	ATL
July 27, 28, 29	FLA
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	at LAD
Aug. 3, 4, 5	at SD
Aug. 6, 7, 8, 9	WAS
Aug. 10, 11, 12	PIT
Aug. 14, 15, 16	at ATL
Aug. 17, 18, 19, 20	at FLA
Aug. 21, 22, 23	CHC
Aug. 24, 25, 26	MIL
Aug. 27, 28, 29	COL
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	at WAS
Sept. 3, 4, 5	at COL
Sept. 7, 8, 9	LAD
Sept. 10, 11, 12	ARI
Sept. 14, 15, 16	at SD
Sept. 17, 18, 19	at ARI
Sept. 20, 21, 22, 23	CIN
Sept. 24, 25, 26	SD
Sept. 28, 29, 30	at LAD

BALTIMORE ORIOLES (BAL)

Apr. 2, 3, 4	at MIN
Apr. 6, 7, 8	at NYY
Apr. 9, 10, 11	DET
Apr. 12, 13, 14, 15	KC
Apr. 16, 17, 18	at TB
Apr. 20, 21, 22	TOR
Apr. 23, 24	OAK
Apr. 25, 26	BOS
Apr. 27, 28, 29	at CLE
Apr. 30, May 1, 2	at DET
May 4, 5, 6, 7	CLE
May 8, 9, 10	TB
May 11, 12, 13	at BOS
May 14, 15, 16	at TOR
May 18, 19, 20	at WAS
May 22, 23, 24	TOR
May 25, 26, 27	OAK
May 28, 29, 30	at KC
May 31, June 1, 2, 3	at LAA
June 4, 5, 6	at SEA
June 8, 9, 10	COL
June 12, 13, 14	WAS
June 15, 16, 17	ARI
June 19, 20, 21	at SD
June 22, 23, 24	at ARI
June 26, 27, 28	NYY
June 29, 30, July 1	LAA
July 2, 3, 4, 5	at CWS
July 6, 7, 8	at TEX
July 12, 13, 14, 15	CWS
July 16, 17, 18	at SEA
July 20, 21, 22	at OAK
July 24, 25, 26	TB
July 27, 28, 29	NYY
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	at BOS
Aug. 3, 4, 5	at TB
Aug. 7, 8, 9	SEA
Aug. 10, 11, 12	BOS
Aug. 13, 14, 15	at NYY
Aug. 17, 18, 19	at TOR
Aug. 20, 21, 22	TEX
Aug. 23, 24, 25, 26	MIN
Aug. 28, 29, 30	TB
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	at BOS
Sept. 3, 4, 5	at TB
Sept. 6, 7, 8, 9	BOS
Sept. 11, 12, 13	LAA
Sept. 14, 15, 16	at TOR
Sept. 17, 18, 19	at NYY
Sept. 20, 21, 22, 23	at TEX
Sept. 25, 26, 27	TOR
Sept. 28, 29, 30	NYY

BOSTON RED SOX (BOS)

Apr. 2, 4, 5	at KC
Apr. 6, 7, 8	at TEX
Apr. 10, 11, 12	SEA
Apr. 13, 14, 15, 16	LAA
Apr. 17, 18, 19	at TOR
Apr. 20, 21, 22	NYY
Apr. 23, 24	TOR
Apr. 25, 26	at BAL
Apr. 27, 28, 29	at NYY
May 1, 2	OAK
May 4, 5, 6	at MIN
May 8, 9, 10	at TOR
May 11, 12, 13	BAL
May 14, 15, 16, 17	DET
May 18, 19, 20	ATL
May 21, 22, 23	at NYY
May 25, 26, 27	at TEX
May 28, 29, 30	CLE
June 1, 2, 3	NYY
June 4, 5, 6, 7	at OAK
June 8, 9, 10	at ARI
June 12, 13, 14	COL
June 15, 16, 17	SF
June 18, 19, 20	at ATL
June 22, 23, 24	at SD
June 25, 26, 27	at SEA
June 29, 30, July 1, 2	TEX
July 3, 4, 5	TB
July 6, 7, 8	at DET
July 12, 13, 14, 15	TOR
July 16, 17, 18	KC
July 19, 20, 21, 22	CWS
July 23, 24, 25, 26	at CLE
July 27, 28, 29	at TB
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	BAL
Aug. 3, 4, 5	at SEA
Aug. 6, 7, 8	at LAA
Aug. 10, 11, 12	at BAL
Aug. 13, 14, 15	TB
Aug. 17, 18, 19	LAA
Aug. 20, 21, 22	at TB
Aug. 23, 24, 25, 26	at CWS
Aug. 28, 29, 30	at NYY
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	BAL
Sept. 3, 4, 5	TOR
Sept. 6, 7, 8, 9	at BAL
Sept. 10, 11, 12	TB
Sept. 14, 15, 16	NYY
Sept. 17, 18, 19	at TOR
Sept. 21, 22, 23	at TB
Sept. 25, 26	OAK
Sept. 27, 28, 29, 30	MIN

NEW YORK YANKEES (NYY)

Apr. 2, 4, 5	TB
Apr. 6, 7, 8	BAL
Apr. 9, 10, 11	at MIN
Apr. 13, 14, 15	at OAK
Apr. 17, 18, 19	CLE
Apr. 20, 21, 22	at BOS
Apr. 23, 24	at TB
Apr. 25, 26	TOR
Apr. 27, 28, 29	BOS
May 1, 2, 3	at TEX
May 4, 5, 6, 7	SEA
May 8, 9, 10	TEX
May 11, 12, 13	at SEA
May 15, 16, 17	at CWS
May 18, 19, 20	at NYM
May 21, 22, 23	BOS
May 25, 26, 27	LAA
May 28, 29, 30	at TOR
June 1, 2, 3	at BOS
June 4, 5, 6, 7	at CWS
June 8, 9, 10	PIT
June 12, 13, 14	ARI
June 15, 16, 17	NYM
June 19, 20, 21	at COL
June 22, 23, 24	at SF
June 26, 27, 28	at BAL
June 29, 30, July 1	OAK
July 2, 3, 4, 5	MIN
July 6, 7, 8	LAA
July 12, 13, 14, 15	at TB
July 16, 17, 18, 19	TOR
July 20, 21, 22	TB
July 23, 24, 25, 26	at KC
July 27, 28, 29	at BAL
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	CWS
Aug. 3, 4, 5	KC
Aug. 6, 7, 8	at TOR
Aug. 10, 11, 12	at CLE
Aug. 13, 14, 15	BAL
Aug. 16, 17, 18, 19	DET
Aug. 20, 21, 22	at LAA
Aug. 24, 25, 26, 27	at DET
Aug. 28, 29, 30	BOS
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	TB
Sept. 3, 4, 5	SEA
Sept. 7, 8, 9	at KC
Sept. 11, 12, 13	at TOR
Sept. 14, 15, 16	at BOS
Sept. 17, 18, 19	BAL
Sept. 21, 22, 23	TOR
Sept. 25, 26, 27	at TB
Sept. 28, 29, 30	at BAL

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS (TB)

Apr. 2, 4, 5	at NYY
Apr. 6, 7, 8	TOR
Apr. 9, 10, 11	at TEX
Apr. 12, 13, 14, 15	at MIN
Apr. 16, 17, 18	BAL
Apr. 20, 21, 22	CLE
Apr. 23, 24	NYY
Apr. 25, 26	at LAA
Apr. 27, 28, 29	at OAK
May 1, 2, 3	MIN
May 4, 5, 6	OAK
May 8, 9, 10	at BAL
May 11, 12, 13	at TOR
May 15, 16, 17	TEX
May 18, 19, 20	FLA
May 22, 23, 24	SEA
May 25, 26, 27	at CWS
May 28, 29, 30	DET
June 1, 2, 3, 4	KC
June 5, 6, 7	at TOR
June 8, 9, 10	at FLA
June 12, 13, 14	SD
June 15, 16, 17	at COL
June 18, 19, 20	at ARI
June 22, 23, 24	LAD
June 25, 26, 27, 28	CWS
June 29, 30, July 1, 2	at CLE
July 3, 4, 5	at BOS
July 6, 7, 8	at KC
July 12, 13, 14, 15	NYY
July 17, 18, 19	LAA
July 20, 21, 22	at NYY
July 24, 25, 26	at BAL
July 27, 28, 29	BOS
July 30, 31, Aug. 1	TOR
Aug. 3, 4, 5	BAL
Aug. 6, 7, 8, 9	at DET
Aug. 10, 11, 12	at TEX
Aug. 13, 14, 15	at BOS
Aug. 17, 18, 19	CLE
Aug. 20, 21, 22	BOS
Aug. 23, 24, 25, 26	OAK
Aug. 28, 29, 30	at BAL
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	at NYY
Sept. 3, 4, 5	BAL
Sept. 7, 8, 9	TOR
Sept. 10, 11, 12	at BOS
Sept. 13, 14, 15, 16	at SEA
Sept. 17, 18, 19	at LAA
Sept. 21, 22, 23	BOS
Sept. 25, 26, 27	NYY
Sept. 28, 29, 30	at TOR

TORONTO BLUE JAYS (TOR)

Apr. 2, 4, 5	at DET
Apr. 6, 7, 8	at TB
Apr. 9, 10, 11	KC
Apr. 12, 13, 14, 15	DET
Apr. 17, 18, 19	BOS
Apr. 20, 21, 22	at BAL
Apr. 23, 24	at BOS
Apr. 25, 26	at NYY
Apr. 27, 28, 29, 30	TEX
May 1, 2, 3	at CLE
May 4, 5, 6	at TEX
May 8, 9, 10	BOS
May 11, 12, 13	TB
May 14, 15, 16	BAL
May 18, 19, 20	at PHI
May 22, 23, 24	at BAL
May 25, 26, 27	at MIN
May 28, 29, 30	NYY
May 31, June 1, 2, 3	CWS
June 5, 6, 7	TB
June 8, 9, 10	at LAD
June 11, 12, 13	at SF
June 15, 16, 17	WAS
June 19, 20, 21	LAD
June 22, 23, 24	COL
June 25, 26, 27, 28	at MIN
June 29, 30, July 1	at SEA
July 2, 3, 4	at OAK
July 6, 7, 8	CLE
July 12, 13, 14, 15	at BOS
July 16, 17, 18, 19	at NYY
July 20, 21, 22	SEA
July 23, 24, 25	MIN
July 27, 28, 29	at CWS
July 30, 31, Aug. 1	at TB
Aug. 3, 4, 5	TEX
Aug. 6, 7, 8	NYY
Aug. 10, 11, 12, 13	at KC
Aug. 14, 15, 16	LAA
Aug. 17, 18, 19	BAL
Aug. 20, 21, 22	OAK
Aug. 23, 24, 25, 26	at LAA
Aug. 27, 28, 29	at OAK
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	SEA
Sept. 3, 4, 5	at BOS
Sept. 7, 8, 9	at TB
Sept. 11, 12, 13	NYY
Sept. 14, 15, 16	BAL
Sept. 17, 18, 19	BOS
Sept. 21, 22, 23	at NYY
Sept. 25, 26, 27	at BAL
Sept. 28, 29, 30	TB

2007 MLB Schedules

presented by Wrangler

AL CENTRAL

AL WEST

CHICAGO WHITE SOX (CWS)

Apr. 2, 4, 5	CLE
Apr. 6, 7, 8	MIN
Apr. 9, 10, 11	at OAK
Apr. 13, 14, 15	at CLE
Apr. 17, 18, 19	TEX
Apr. 20, 21, 22	at DET
Apr. 23, 24	at KC
Apr. 25, 26	DET
Apr. 27, 28, 29	LAA
May 1, 2	at SEA
May 4, 5, 6	at LAA
May 8, 9, 10	at MIN
May 11, 12, 13	KC
May 15, 16, 17	NYY
May 18, 19, 20	at CHC
May 21, 22, 23	OAK
May 25, 26, 27	TB
May 28, 29, 30	at MIN
May 31, June 1, 2, 3	at TOR
June 4, 5, 6, 7	NYY
June 8, 9, 10	HOU
June 11, 12, 13	at PHI
June 15, 16, 17	at PIT
June 18, 19, 20	FLA
June 22, 23, 24	CHC
June 25, 26, 27, 28	at TB
June 29, 30, July 1	at KC
July 2, 3, 4, 5	BAL
July 6, 7, 8	MIN
July 12, 13, 14, 15	at BAL
July 16, 17, 18	at CLE
July 19, 20, 21, 22	at BOS
July 23, 24, 25, 26	DET
July 27, 28, 29	TOR
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	at NYY
Aug. 3, 4, 5	at DET
Aug. 7, 8, 9	CLE
Aug. 10, 11, 12	SEA
Aug. 14, 15, 16	at OAK
Aug. 17, 18, 19	at SEA
Aug. 20, 21, 22	KC
Aug. 23, 24, 25, 26	BOS
Aug. 28, 29, 30	at TEX
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	at CLE
Sept. 4, 5, 6	at DET
Sept. 7, 8, 9	MIN
Sept. 10, 11, 12	CLE
Sept. 14, 15, 16	LAA
Sept. 17, 18, 19, 20	at KC
Sept. 21, 22, 23	at MIN
Sept. 25, 26, 27	KC
Sept. 28, 29, 30	DET

CLEVELAND INDIANS (CLE)

Apr. 2, 4, 5	at CWS
Apr. 6, 7, 8, 9	SEA
Apr. 10, 11, 12	LAA
Apr. 13, 14, 15	CWS
Apr. 17, 18, 19	at NYY
Apr. 20, 21, 22	at TB
Apr. 23, 24	at MIN
Apr. 25, 26	TEX
Apr. 27, 28, 29	BAL
May 1, 2, 3	TOR
May 4, 5, 6, 7	at BAL
May 8, 9, 10	at LAA
May 11, 12, 13	at OAK
May 15, 16, 17	MIN
May 18, 19, 20	CIN
May 22, 23, 24	at KC
May 25, 26, 27	at DET
May 28, 29, 30	at BOS
May 31, June 1, 2, 3	DET
June 5, 6, 7	KC
June 8, 9, 10	at CIN
June 12, 13, 14	at FLA
June 15, 16, 17	ATL
June 18, 19, 20	PHI
June 22, 23, 24	at WAS
June 25, 26, 27, 28	OAK
June 29, 30, July 1, 2	TB
July 3, 4, 5	at DET
July 6, 7, 8	at TOR
July 13, 14, 15	KC
July 16, 17, 18	CWS
July 19, 20, 21, 22	at TEX
July 23, 24, 25, 26	BOS
July 27, 28, 29	MIN
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	TEX
Aug. 3, 4, 5, 6	at MIN
Aug. 7, 8, 9	at CWS
Aug. 10, 11, 12	NYY
Aug. 14, 15	DET
Aug. 17, 18, 19	at TB
Aug. 21, 22, 23	at DET
Aug. 24, 25, 26	at KC
Aug. 28, 29, 30	MIN
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	CWS
Sept. 3, 4, 5	at MIN
Sept. 6, 7, 8, 9	at LAA
Sept. 10, 11, 12	at CWS
Sept. 14, 15, 16	KC
Sept. 17, 18, 19	DET
Sept. 21, 22, 23	OAK
Sept. 25, 26, 27	at SEA
Sept. 28, 29, 30	at KC

DETROIT TIGERS (DET)

Apr. 2, 4, 5	TOR
Apr. 6, 7, 8	at KC
Apr. 9, 10, 11	at BAL
Apr. 12, 13, 14, 15	at TOR
Apr. 16, 17, 18	KC
Apr. 20, 21, 22	CWS
Apr. 23, 24	at LAA
Apr. 25, 26	at CWS
Apr. 27, 28, 29	MIN
Apr. 30, May 1, 2	BAL
May 4, 5, 6	at KC
May 8, 9, 10	SEA
May 11, 12, 13	at MIN
May 14, 15, 16, 17	at BOS
May 18, 19, 20	STL
May 22, 23, 24	LAA
May 25, 26, 27	CLE
May 28, 29, 30	at TB
May 31, June 1, 2, 3	at CLE
June 5, 6, 7	at TEX
June 8, 9, 10	NYM
June 12, 13, 14	MIL
June 15, 16, 17	at PHI
June 18, 19, 20	at WAS
June 22, 23, 24	at ATL
June 25, 26, 27, 28	TEX
June 29, 30, July 1	MIN
July 3, 4, 5	CLE
July 6, 7, 8	BOS
July 12, 13, 14, 15	at SEA
July 17, 18, 19	at MIN
July 20, 21, 22	KC
July 23, 24, 25, 26	at CWS
July 27, 28, 29	at LAA
July 30, 31, Aug. 1	at OAK
Aug. 3, 4, 5	CWS
Aug. 6, 7, 8, 9	TB
Aug. 10, 11, 12, 13	OAK
Aug. 14, 15	at CLE
Aug. 16, 17, 18, 19	at NYY
Aug. 21, 22, 23	CLE
Aug. 24, 25, 26, 27	NYY
Aug. 28, 29, 30	at KC
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	at OAK
Sept. 4, 5, 6	CWS
Sept. 7, 8, 9	SEA
Sept. 11, 12	TEX
Sept. 14, 15, 16	at MIN
Sept. 17, 18, 19	at CLE
Sept. 21, 22, 23	KC
Sept. 24, 25, 26	MIN
Sept. 28, 29, 30	at CWS

KANSAS CITY ROYALS (KC)

Apr. 2, 4, 5	BOS
Apr. 6, 7, 8	DET
Apr. 9, 10, 11	at TOR
Apr. 12, 13, 14, 15	at BAL
Apr. 16, 17, 18	at DET
Apr. 20, 21, 22	MIN
Apr. 23, 24	CWS
Apr. 25, 26	at MIN
Apr. 27, 28, 29	at SEA
Apr. 30, May 1, 2, 3	LAA
May 4, 5, 6	DET
May 8, 9, 10	OAK
May 11, 12, 13	at CWS
May 14, 15, 16, 17	at OAK
May 18, 19, 20	at COL
May 22, 23, 24	CLE
May 25, 26, 27	SEA
May 28, 29, 30	BAL
June 1, 2, 3, 4	at TB
June 5, 6, 7	at CLE
June 8, 9, 10	PHI
June 12, 13, 14	STL
June 15, 16, 17	FLA
June 18, 19, 20	at STL
June 22, 23, 24	at MIL
June 25, 26, 27	at LAA
June 29, 30, July 1	CWS
July 2, 3, 4	SEA
July 6, 7, 8	TB
July 13, 14, 15	at CLE
July 16, 17, 18	at BOS
July 20, 21, 22	at DET
July 23, 24, 25, 26	NYY
July 27, 28, 29	TEX
July 30, 31, Aug. 1, 2	at MIN
Aug. 3, 4, 5	at NYY
Aug. 7, 8, 9	MIN
Aug. 10, 11, 12, 13	TOR
Aug. 14, 15, 16	at TEX
Aug. 17, 18, 19	at OAK
Aug. 20, 21, 22	at CWS
Aug. 24, 25, 26	CLE
Aug. 28, 29, 30	DET
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	at MIN
Sept. 3, 4, 5	at TEX
Sept. 7, 8, 9	NYY
Sept. 10, 11, 12	MIN
Sept. 14, 15, 16	at CLE
Sept. 17, 18, 19, 20	CWS
Sept. 21, 22, 23	at DET
Sept. 25, 26, 27	at CWS
Sept. 28, 29, 30	CLE

MINNESOTA TWINS (MIN)

Apr. 2, 3, 4	BAL
Apr. 6, 7, 8	at CWS
Apr. 9, 10, 11	NYY
Apr. 12, 13, 14, 15	TB
Apr. 17, 18, 19	at SEA
Apr. 20, 21, 22	at KC
Apr. 23, 24	CLE
Apr. 25, 26	KC
Apr. 27, 28, 29	at DET
May 1, 2, 3	at TB
May 4, 5, 6	BOS
May 8, 9, 10	CWS
May 11, 12, 13	DET
May 15, 16, 17	at CLE
May 18, 19, 20	at MIL
May 21, 22, 23	at TEX
May 25, 26, 27	TOR
May 28, 29, 30	CWS
June 1, 2, 3	at OAK
June 4, 5, 6	at LAA
June 8, 9, 10	WAS
June 12, 13, 14	ATL
June 15, 16, 17	MIL
June 18, 19, 20	at NYM
June 22, 23, 24	at FLA
June 25, 26, 27, 28	TOR
June 29, 30, July 1	at DET
July 2, 3, 4, 5	at NYY
July 6, 7, 8	at CWS
July 12, 13, 14, 15	OAK
July 17, 18, 19	DET
July 20, 21, 22	LAA
July 23, 24, 25	at TOR
July 27, 28, 29	at CLE
July 30, 31, Aug. 1, 2	KC
Aug. 3, 4, 5, 6	CLE
Aug. 7, 8, 9	at KC
Aug. 10, 11, 12	at LAA
Aug. 13, 14, 15	at SEA
Aug. 17, 18, 19	TEX
Aug. 20, 21, 22	SEA
Aug. 23, 24, 25, 26	at BAL
Aug. 28, 29, 30	at CLE
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	KC
Sept. 3, 4, 5	CLE
Sept. 7, 8, 9	at CWS
Sept. 10, 11, 12	at KC
Sept. 14, 15, 16	DET
Sept. 17, 18, 19	TEX
Sept. 21, 22, 23	CWS
Sept. 24, 25, 26	at DET
Sept. 27, 28, 29, 30	at BOS

LOS ANGELES ANGELS (LAA)

Apr. 2, 3, 4	TEX
Apr. 5, 6, 7, 8	OAK
Apr. 10, 11, 12	at CLE
Apr. 13, 14, 15, 16	at BOS
Apr. 17, 18	at OAK
Apr. 20, 21, 22	SEA
Apr. 23, 24	DET
Apr. 25, 26	TB
Apr. 27, 28, 29	at CWS
Apr. 30, May 1, 2, 3	at KC
May 4, 5, 6	CWS
May 8, 9, 10	CLE
May 11, 12, 13, 14	at TEX
May 15, 16, 17	at SEA
May 18, 19, 20	LAD
May 22, 23, 24	at DET
May 25, 26, 27	at NYY
May 28, 29, 30	SEA
May 31, June 1, 2, 3	BAL
June 4, 5, 6	MIN
June 8, 9, 10	at STL
June 12, 13, 14	at CIN
June 15, 16, 17	at LAD
June 18, 19, 20	HOU
June 22, 23, 24	PIT
June 25, 26, 27	KC
June 29, 30, July 1	at BAL
July 3, 4, 5	at TEX
July 6, 7, 8	at NYY
July 13, 14, 15	TEX
July 17, 18, 19	at TB
July 20, 21, 22	at MIN
July 23, 24, 25	OAK
July 27, 28, 29	DET
July 30, 31, Aug. 1	at SEA
Aug. 2, 3, 4, 5	at OAK
Aug. 6, 7, 8	BOS
Aug. 10, 11, 12	MIN
Aug. 14, 15, 16	at TOR
Aug. 17, 18, 19	at BOS
Aug. 20, 21, 22	NYY
Aug. 23, 24, 25, 26	TOR
Aug. 27, 28, 29	at SEA
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	TEX
Sept. 3, 4, 5	OAK
Sept. 6, 7, 8, 9	CLE
Sept. 11, 12, 13	at BAL
Sept. 14, 15, 16	at CWS
Sept. 17, 18, 19	TB
Sept. 20, 21, 22, 23	SEA
Sept. 24, 25, 26	at TEX
Sept. 28, 29, 30	at OAK

OAKLAND ATHLETICS (OAK)

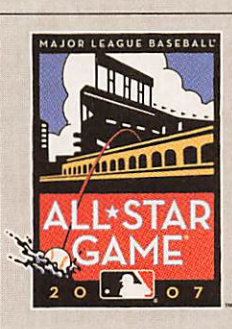
Apr. 2, 3, 4	at SEA
Apr. 5, 6, 7, 8	at LAA
Apr. 9, 10, 11	CWS
Apr. 13, 14, 15	NYY
Apr. 17, 18	LAA
Apr. 20, 21, 22	at TEX
Apr. 23, 24	at BAL
Apr. 25, 26	SEA
Apr. 27, 28, 29	TB
May 1, 2	at BOS
May 4, 5, 6	at TB
May 8, 9, 10	at KC
May 11, 12, 13	CLE
May 14, 15, 16, 17	KC
May 18, 19, 20	SF
May 21, 22, 23	at CWS
May 25, 26, 27	at BAL
May 28, 29, 30	TEX
June 1, 2, 3	MIN
June 4, 5, 6, 7	BOS
June 8, 9, 10	at SF
June 12, 13, 14	at HOU
June 15, 16, 17	STL
June 18, 19, 20	CIN
June 22, 23, 24	at NYM
June 25, 26, 27, 28	at CLE
June 29, 30, July 1	at NYY
July 2, 3, 4	TOR
July 5, 6, 7, 8	SEA
July 12, 13, 14, 15	at MIN
July 16, 17, 18	TEX
July 20, 21, 22	BAL
July 23, 24, 25	at LAA
July 26, 27, 28, 29	at SEA
July 30, 31, Aug. 1	DET
Aug. 2, 3, 4, 5	LAA
Aug. 6, 7, 8	at TEX
Aug. 10, 11, 12, 13	at DET
Aug. 14, 15, 16	CWS
Aug. 17, 18, 19	KC
Aug. 20, 21, 22	at TOR
Aug. 23, 24, 25, 26	at TB
Aug. 27, 28, 29	TOR
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	DET
Sept. 3, 4, 5	at LAA
Sept. 7, 8, 9	at TEX
Sept. 10, 11, 12	at SEA
Sept. 13, 14, 15, 16	TEX
Sept. 17, 18, 19	SEA
Sept. 21, 22, 23	at CLE
Sept. 25, 26	at BOS
Sept. 28, 29, 30	LAA

SEATTLE MARINERS (SEA)

Apr. 2, 3, 4	OAK
Apr. 6, 7, 8, 9	at CLE
Apr. 10, 11, 12	at BOS
Apr. 13, 14, 15	TEX
Apr. 17, 18, 19	MIN
Apr. 20, 21, 22	at LAA
Apr. 23, 24	at TEX
Apr. 25, 26	at OAK
Apr. 27, 28, 29	KC
May 1, 2	CWS
May 4, 5, 6, 7	at NYY
May 8, 9, 10	at DET
May 11, 12, 13	NYY
May 15, 16, 17	LAA
May 18, 19, 20	SD
May 22, 23, 24	at TB
May 25, 26, 27	at KC
May 28, 29, 30	at LAA
May 31, June 1, 2, 3	TEX
June 4, 5, 6	BAL
June 8, 9, 10	at SD
June 12, 13, 14	at CHC
June 15, 16, 17	at HOU
June 19, 20, 21	PIT
June 22, 23, 24	CIN
June 25, 26, 27	BOS
June 29, 30, July 1	TOR
July 2, 3, 4	at KC
July 5, 6, 7, 8	at OAK
July 12, 13, 14, 15	DET
July 16, 17, 18	BAL
July 20, 21, 22	at TOR
July 23, 24, 25	at TEX
July 26, 27, 28, 29	OAK
July 30, 31, Aug. 1	LAA
Aug. 3, 4, 5	BOS
Aug. 7, 8, 9	at BAL
Aug. 10, 11, 12	at CWS
Aug. 13, 14, 15	MIN
Aug. 17, 18, 19	CWS
Aug. 20, 21, 22	at MIN
Aug. 23, 24, 25, 26	at TEX
Aug. 27, 28, 29	LAA
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	at TOR
Sept. 3, 4, 5	at NYY
Sept. 7, 8, 9	at DET
Sept. 10, 11, 12	OAK
Sept. 13, 14, 15, 16	TB
Sept. 17, 18, 19	at OAK
Sept. 20, 21, 22, 23	at LAA
Sept. 25, 26, 27	CLE
Sept. 28, 29, 30	TEX

TEXAS RANGERS (TEX)

Apr. 2, 3, 4	at LAA
Apr. 6, 7, 8	BOS
Apr. 9, 10, 11	TB
Apr. 13, 14, 15	at SEA
Apr. 17, 18, 19	at CWS
Apr. 20, 21, 22	OAK
Apr. 23, 24	SEA
Apr. 25, 26	at CLE
Apr. 27, 28, 29, 30	at TOR
May 1, 2, 3	NYY
May 4, 5, 6	TOR
May 8, 9, 10	at NYY
May 11, 12, 13, 14	LAA
May 15, 16, 17	at TB
May 18, 19, 20	at HOU
May 21, 22, 23	MIN
May 25, 26, 27	BOS
May 28, 29, 30	at OAK
May 31, June 1, 2, 3	at SEA
June 5, 6, 7	DET
June 8, 9, 10	MIL
June 12, 13, 14	at PIT
June 15, 16, 17	at CIN
June 19, 20, 21	CHC
June 22, 23, 24	HOU
June 25, 26, 27, 28	at DET
June 29, 30, July 1, 2	at BOS
July 3, 4, 5	LAA
July 6, 7, 8	BAL
July 13, 14, 15	at LAA
July 16, 17, 18	at OAK
July 19, 20, 21, 22	CLE
July 23, 24, 25	SEA
July 27, 28, 29	at KC
July 31, Aug. 1, 2	at CLE
Aug. 3, 4, 5	at TOR
Aug. 6, 7, 8	OAK
Aug. 10, 11, 12	TB
Aug. 14, 15, 16	KC
Aug. 17, 18, 19	at MIN
Aug. 20, 21, 22	at BAL
Aug. 23, 24, 25, 26	SEA
Aug. 28, 29, 30	CWS
Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2	at LAA
Sept. 3, 4, 5	KC
Sept. 7, 8, 9	OAK
Sept. 11, 12	at DET
Sept. 13, 14, 15, 16	at OAK
Sept. 17, 18, 19	at MIN
Sept. 20, 21, 22, 23	BAL
Sept. 24, 25, 26	LAA
Sept. 28, 29, 30	at SEA



July 10, 2007

AT&T Park
San Francisco, CA

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HAND SIGNED STEINER SPORTS MEMORABILIA COLLECTIBLES DISTRIBUTOR

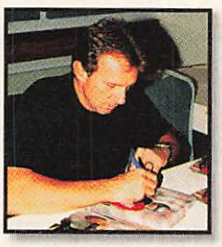
$2,000,000 Spring Clearance Sale

FOOTBALL MINI - HELMETS

Aikman, Troy (S) DAL/UCLA	$199
Allen, Marcus (R) USC/Raid	$109
Barber, Tiki (R) Giants/UVA	$189
Bednarik, Chuck (R) Eagles HOF	$ 59
Belino, Joe (R) Navy/Heisman	$ 69
Berry, Raymond (C) Colts HOF	$ 69
Bletnikoff, Fred (R) Raid/FSU	$ 79
Blanda, George (R) Raiders w/HOF	$ 99
Blount, Mel (R) Steelers, w/HOF	$ 79
Brown, Jim (R) Cle/SY	$199
Brown, Ronnie (R) Dolphins	$109
Brown, Tim (R) Raid/ND	$ 99
Bruce, Issac (R) Rams/MSU	$ 69
Bulock, Keith (R) Titans/Syr	$ 79
Buoniconti, Nick (R) MIA HOF	$ 69
Burress, Plaxico (R) Giants	$ 69
Bush, Reggie (R) USC/Saints	$199
Butkus, Dick (S) Bears/Illinois	$169
Campbell, E (R) Oil/TX-Hels	$ 99
Campbell, Jason (R) Aub/Skins	$ 79
Cannon, Billy (R) LSU/Heisman	$ 59
Carter, Chris (R) Vikings	$ 79
Cassady, H. (R) OSU/Heisman	$ 59
Chambers, Chris (R) Miami/Misc	$ 69
Clark, Dwight (R) SF/Clemson	$ 69
Clayton, Michael (R) Bucs/LSU	$ 69
Couch, Tim (S) (KY)	$ 79
Crow, John David (R) TX A&M/Heis	$ 69
Davis, Willie (R) Packers HOF	$ 99
Dawson, L. (R) Pat/KC HOF	$ 89
Dawne, Ron (R) Misc/Heisman	$ 79
Dent, Richard (R) Bears	$ 69
Dickerson, Eric (S) Rams/SMU	$ 99
Ditka, Mike (R) Bears/TB	$ 99
Dorsett, T. (R) Dall/Heis/Pitt	$109
Dyson, Kevin (R) Titans "MCM"	$ 69
Edwards, Braylon (R) MI/Browns	$109
Elway, John (R) Denver	$259
Evans, Lee (R) Bills/Misc	$ 69
Favre, Brett (R) Packers/So.Miss	$199
Foote, Larry (R) Mich/Steelers	$ 69
Foreman, Chuck (R) Vik/U Miami	$ 69
Foster, DeShaun (R) Carolina	$ 79
Fouts, Dan (R) Chargers HOF	$109
Frazier, Tommie (R) Nebraska	$ 69
Gafney, J. (R) Gator/Texans	$ 69
Galloway, Joey (R) OSU/Bucs	$ 69
Gamble, Chris (R) Ohio St/Panthers	$ 69
Gates, Antonio (R) Chargers	$ 99
George, E (R) OSU/Heis/Dal	$119
Gifford, Frank (R) NY Giants HOF	$119
Gonzalez, Tony (R) Chiefs	$ 99
Grant, Deon (R) Jags/Vols	$ 59
Green, Ahman (R) GB/Neb	$ 89
Green, Trent (R) Chiefs/Ind	$ 89
Griese, Bob (R) Miami/Purdue	$109
Griffin, Archie (R) OSU Heis	$ 75
Grossman, Rex (R) Bears/Pa	$159
Haley, Charles (R) Dallas	$ 59
Ham, Jack (R) Penn St./Pitt	$ 79
Hamilton, Dan (R) HOF Bears	$119
Harper, Alvin (R) Vols/Dal	$ 59
Harris, Franco (R) Steelers/PSU	$149
Harris, Tommie (R) OU	$ 59
Hasselbeck, Matt (R) Seahawks S.S.	$179
Hawk, A.J. (R) Ohio State/GB	$109
Henry, Travis (R) Vols/Titans	$ 69
Heupel, Josh (R) Oklahoma	$ 69
Holmes, Santonio (R) OSU/Steelers	$ 79
Hornung, Paul (S) ND/Heis/GB	$ 79
Howard, Desmond (R) Mich/Heis/GB	$ 69
Jackson, Bo (R) Raiders/Aub	$169
Jaworski, Ron (R) Eagles TB	$ 69
Jenkins, Michael (R) OSU/Falcons	$ 69
Johnson, Bethel (R) TX A&M	$ 59
Johnson, Derrick (R) Chiefs w/HOF	$ 69
Johnson, Key (R) Jets $29 or USC	$ 89
Johnson, Larry (R) Chiefs/Penn St	$119
Johnson, Rudi (R) Bengals	$ 79
Johnston, Daryl (R) Dallas	$ 69
Joiner, Charlie (R) SD w/HOF	$ 65
Jones, Deacon (R) HOF/Rams	$ 69
Jones, Ed "Too" (R) A.S.	$ 69
Jones, Julius (R) ND/Dallas	$109
Jones, Kevin (R) Va. Tech/Lions	$ 69
Jones, Thom, (R) LVA/Bears	$ 79
Jones-Drew (R) Jaguars/UCLA	$ 89
Jurgenson, S. (R) Skins/Duke	$139
Kearse, Jevon (R) Gators	$ 89
Kelly, Jim (R) Bills/UMA	$119
Kelly, Leroy (R) Clev. HOF	$ 59
Kilmer, Billy (R) Skins/UCLA	$ 59
Kiecko, Joe (R) Jets TB	$ 49
Krause, Paul (R) Vik w/HOF	$ 69
Lambert, Jack (R) Steelers w/HOF	$119
Langer, Jim (R) Dolphins HOF	$ 59
Lary, Yale (R) TX A&M/Lions	$ 59
Lattner, Johnny (R) ND/Heis	$ 65
Lavelli, Dante (R) Clev/HOF/OSU	$ 69
Lofton, Stefan (R) Louisville	$ 59
Lofton, Stephen (S) Jaguars	$139
Lorenzetti, Matt (R) USC/Cards	$199
Low, Max (R) Bills HOF	$ 69
Lilly, Bob (R) HOF Dallas	$ 59
Little, Larry (R) Miami HOF	$ 69
Lofton, James (R) GB/Bills/HOF	$ 69
Long, Howie (R) Raiders w/HOF	$ 59
Lott, R. (R) Raid/SF,USC	$ 89
Lynch, John (R) Denver	$ 59
Mackey, John (C) Colts HOF	$ 59
Manning, Archie (R) MS/ND	$109
Manning, Eli (R) NY/MS	$199
Manning, Peyton (R) Colts/Vols	$259
Marchetti, Gino (R) Colts w/HOF	$ 59
Marino, Dan (R) Mia/Pitt	$259
Maynard, Don (R) Jets TB HOF	$ 59
McGahee, Willis (R) Bills/Canes	$ 99
McGee, Max (R) Packers TB	$ 49
McMichael, Randy (R) Miami/UGA	$ 69
McNabb, Donovan (R) Eagles	$239
Miller, Heath (R) Steelers/UVA	$ 89
Mitchell, Bobby (R) Skins HOF	$ 69
Montana, Joe (R) SF/N.Dame	$199
Moon, Warren (R) Oilers HOF	$ 99
Moore, Lenny (R) Colts/HOF	$ 59
Morency, Venand (R) OK St/TX	$ 59
Morrall, E. Colts/Mia (R) C.S.A.	$ 49
Morris, Joe (R) Giants	$ 49
Moss, Sinorice (R) U. Miami/Giatns	$ 59
Muhammad, Muhsin (R) Bears	$ 69
Munoz, Anthony (R) Bengals w/HOF	$ 79
Nebraska 3-Sig Heisman (R)	$109
Nebraska Heisman (R) 3-Sig	$ 99
Newman, Terence (R) Dallas	$ 59
Newsome, Ozzie (R) Browns w/HOF	$ 69
Norton, Ken Jr. (R) Dallas/SF	$ 59
Nowacki, Jay (R) Dallas	$ 69
Nugent, Mike (R) Ohio St	$ 59
Oklahoma (R) 3-Sig Heisman	$109
Orton, Kyle (R) Bears/Purdue	$ 79
Otto, Jim (R) Miami/Raid HOF	$ 69
Owens, Steve (R) Okla/Heis	$ 59
Palmer, Carson (R) USC/Bengals	$229
Parrish, Roscoe (R) Canes/Bills	$ 59
Partington, Ara (R) Notre Dame	$ 69
Pennington, Ch. (R) Jets/Mar.	$149
Perry, Chris (R) Mich/Cinn	$ 69
Pihos, Phil (R) Eagles TB w/HOF	$ 59
Plummer, Jake (R) Broncos	$ 79
Plunkett, J. (R) Raid/Stan/Heis	$ 99
Portis, Clinton (R) Skins/Canes	$ 99
Reed, Andre (R) Bills	$ 59
Renfro, Mel (R) Dallas HOF	$ 59
Rice, Jerry (R) Raid/SF	$169
Rivers, Philip (R) NC State/S.D.	$129
Rodgers, Johnny (R) Neb/Heis	$ 69
Rogers, Geo (R) SC/Heisman	$ 59
Rolle, Antrel (R) U. Miami	$ 59
Rozier, Mike (R) Nebr./Heis.	$ 59
Salisbury, Sean (R) USC/Vikings	$ 69
Salaam, R. (R) Col/Heisman	$ 59
Sanders, Barry (R) OSU/Lions	$199
Sanders, Barry OFC	$ 99
Sayers, Gale OFC $189 or Gold	$129
Sims, Billy NFL Gold/Lions	$ 79
Spurrier, Steve OFC $189 Gators	$129
Stabler, Ken OFC $189 or Raid Logo	$139
Starr, Bart ORC HOF	$329
Staubach, Roger OFC S.S.	$279
Taylor, Lawrence OFC GTSM	$249
Theismann, Joe OFC w/ SB MVP	$219
Tittle, Y.A. OFC $189 or Gold	$169
Walker, Herschel GA. Logo	$129
Williams, Cornell OFC $249 or Logo	$199
Wuerffel, Danny Gators w/Heis	$ 89
Young, Steve OFC w/HOF	$269

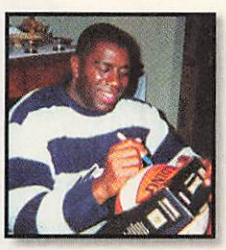
HELMETS

'69 Jets Team (27 Sigs) S.S.	$999
Aikman, Troy OFC Dallas/UCLA	$449
Allen, Marcus ORC Raid HOF $399 Rep	$269
Barber, Tiki OFC Giants S.S.	$439
Blount, Mel Steelers Rep HOF	$219
Bradshaw, T. OFC $449 or Rep	$329
Brown, Jim ORC Clev $429 or Rep	$289
Bush, Reg. USC OFC $449 Saints Rep	$349
Butkus, Dick ORC $399 or Rep	$249
Campbell, Earl ORC $379 or Rep	$259
Chambers, Chris Dolphins Rep	$199
Dallas 3X SB Champs Team (31 Sigs)	$1,399
Dawson, Len KC $329 or Rep	$229
Dickerson, E. ORC w/HOF $369 Rep	$229
Ditka, Mike ORC $379 or Rep	$249
Dorsett, Tony ORC $369 or Rep	$269
Elway, John ORC $549 or Rep	$399
Favre, Brett ORC $449 or Rep	$349
Fouts, Dan ORC w/HOF $399 or Rep	$259
Gates, Antonio Chargers Rep	$199
George, Eddie ORCOhio St.	$379
Griese, Bob ORC 1969 or Rep	$229
Ham, Jack ORC PSU $349 Steelers Rep	$199
Heisman FS Rep (12 Sigs)	$599
Jackson, Bo ORC Aub $389 or Rep	$269
Johnson, Rudi ORC $349 Rep	$199
Jones, Julius Dallas Rep	$239
Kelly, Jim ORC Bills/Ma GTSM	$399
Kosar, Bernie ORC Browns $369 Rep	$229
Lambert, Jack ORC Steelers HOF	$399
Leinart, M. USC ORC $429 Cards Rep	$329
Manning, Eli ORC Giants/MS	$449
Manning, Peyton Colts/Vols	$599
Marino, Dan ORC $579 or Rep M.M.	$439
McGahee, W. ORC $379 or Rep	$249
Montana, J. (ND/SF) T.S.P.	$479
Moon, Warren ORC Oilers w/ HOF	$379
Namath, Joe (NY/ALA) OFC	$579
Nebraska ORC 3-Sig Hesman	$349
Pennington, Chad ORC Jets/Marsh	$369
Plunkett, J. OFC Raid/Stanf $379 Rep	$229
Purple People Eaters ORC (4-Sigs)	$399
Rice, Jerry ORC SF $399 or Rep	$299
Sanders, Barry ORC $479 or Rep	$399
Sayers, Gale ORC T.B. Bears/KU	$399
Scurlock, Steve ORC FL $369 or Rep	$299
Stabler, K. ORC Raid/Ala $369 or Rep	$229
Staubach, Roger ORC $429 or Rep	$329
Steel Curtain ORC $399 or Rep	$279
Taylor, L. ORC Giants TB/HOF	$419
Theismann, J. ORC Skins/ND	$379
Thomas, T.(Bills/OK.St.) OFC	$349
Tittle, Y.A. ORC TB A.S. HOF	$349
Vick, Michael ORC $459 or Rep	$299
Walker, Her ORC UGA $349 or Rep	$199
Williams, Dokie ORC Bucs/Aub $369 Rep	$259
Woodson, Charles ORC Mich w/ Heis	$389
Young, Steve ORC SF TB w/HOF	$429



Joe Montana & Dan Marino
Authorized Dealer/Distr.

Peyton Manning



Magic Johnson • Larry Bird
"Dr. J." • Michael Jordan • Lebron James

Tiger Woods British or U.S. Open
Autographed Pin Flags and 16x20's • Upper Deck

FOOTBALLS

Aikman, Troy ORC $299 or NFL Gold	$ 239
Allen, Marcus ORC ASL HOF	$ 199
Barber, Tiki ORC S.S.	$ 269
Bletnikoff, Fred ORC HOF/MVP	$ 199
Bowden, Bobby Fla St Logo	$ 129
Brown, Bobby ORC	$ 299
Brown, Jim ORC $279 or Gold	$ 199
Brown, Ronnie ORC FJ.	$ 199
Brunnell, Mark ORC RDM	$ 159
Butkus, Dick ORC w/ HOF	$ 249
Campbell, Earl ORC w/ HOF	$ 199
Dawson, Len ORC $169 or Logo	$ 119
Dillon, Corey ORC $249 or Gold	$ 189
Ditka, Mike ORC w/ HOF	$ 219
Dorsett, Tony ORC $199 or Gold	$ 169
Elway, John ORC M.M.	$ 429
Favre, Brett ORC B.F. Hologram	$ 329
Fouts, Dan ORC w/HOF	$ 139
Griese, Bob ORC w/ HOF	$ 199
Harris, Franco ORC S.S.	$ 249
Jacobs, Brandon ORC	$ 189
Joiner, Charlie NFL Gold HOF	$ 79
Jones, Julius ORC	$ 249
Kelly, Jim ORC GTSM	$ 199
Largent, Steve ORC w/ HOF	$ 189
Leftwich, Byron ORC RDM	$ 249
Leinart, Matt ORC	$ 299
Lilly, Bob Dallas Logo w/HOF	$ 79
Manning, Eli ORC S.S.	$ 299
Manning, Peyton ORC M.M.	$ 399
Marino, Dan ORC $399 or "Gold"	$ 329
McNabb, Donovan ORC SS	$ 339
Montana, Joe ORC $299 or Gold	$ 249
Namath, Joe ORC	$ 369
Palmer, Carson ORC P. Holo	$ 349
Pennington, Chad ORC	$ 249
Rice, Jerry ORC Rice/Holo	$ 259
Riggins, John ORC w/ HOF	$ 249
Roethlisberger, Ben ORC	$ 349
Sanders, Barry ORC	$ 299
Sayers, Gale ORC $189 or Gold	$ 129
Sims, Billy NFL Gold/Lions	$ 79
Spurrier, Steve ORC $189 Gators	$ 129
Stabler, Ken ORC $189 or Raid Logo	$ 139
Starr, Bart ORC HOF	$ 329
Staubach, Roger ORC S.S.	$ 279
Taylor, Lawrence OFC GTSM	$ 249
Theismann, Joe OFC w/ SB MVP	$ 219
Tittle, Y.A. ORC $169 or Gold	$ 169
Walker, Herschel GA. Logo	$ 129
Williams, Cornell OFC $249 or Logo	$ 199
Wuerffel, Danny Gators w/Heis	$ 89
Young, Steve ORC w/ HOF	$ 269

JERSEYS

'69 Jets Team (27 Sigs) S.S.	$ 999
Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem Lakers	$ 349
Aikman, Troy Dal/UCLA	$ 399
Allen, Marcus ORC USC/Raid	$ 299
Banks, Ernie Cubs GTSM	$ 329
Banks/Dawson Cubs "MVP" GTSM	$ 399
Barber, Tiki NY Giants S.S.	$ 349
Bird, Larry ORC PSA/DNA	$ 449
Boggs, Wade NY or Boston w/HOF	$ 279
Bradshaw, Terry Steelers	$ 379
Branch, Deion Pats TB w/ SBMVP	$ 229
Brett, George Royals HOF	$ 299
Brock, Lou Cardinals	$ 259
Brown, Jim OFC T.B. HOF	$ 349
Burress, Plaxico NY Giants	$ 199
Burress, Plaxico NY/Giants	$ 399
Campbell, Earl TX/Oilers HOF	$ 259
Cano, Robinson NYY	$ 199
Carlton, Steve Phillies w/HOF	$ 229
Carter, Gary Mets or Expos HOF	$ 119
Carter, Vince UNC/Nets	$ 299
Dorsett, Tony Dallas/U Pitt	$ 249
Dunn, Adam Reds	$ 199
Elway, J. Denver TB/Stan MM	$ 479
Elving, Julius "Dr. J" 76'ers	$ 299
Favre, Brett Packers B.F.H.	$ 449
Ford, Whitey NYY	$ 129
Frazier, Walt Knicks OFC HOF	$ 229
Garvey, Steve LAD	$ 129
Gates, Antonio Chargers TB	$ 239
George, Eddie Ohio St Heis	$ 249
Gibson, Bob Cardinals HOF	$ 229
Gibson, Bob Cardinals	$ 249
Griese, Bob OFC T.S.P./HOF	$ 279
Griffey, Ken Jr. Reds	$ 429
Griffin, Archie Ohio St. Global	$ 199
Hawk, A.J. Ohio State/Packers	$ 239
Jackson, Reggie NYY	$ 349
Jenkins, Fergie Cubs w/HOF	$ 169
Jeter, Derek NYY OFC S.S.	$ 629
Johnson, Chad Bengals	$ 269
Johnson, Larry Chiefs/Penn St.	$ 249
Johnson, Magic Lakers/Mich St.	$ 399
Johnson, Rudi Bengals/Auburn	$ 199
Jones, Ancrux Braves	$ 229
Jordan, M. OFC U.D.A.	$1,599
Kaline, Al Tigers w/HOF	$ 219
Kelly, Jim Bills/HOF/U. Miami	$ 449
Leinart, Matt USC/Cards	$ 349
Long, Howie Raiders/HOF	$ 229
Manning, Eli Giants/MS	$ 399
Manning, Peyton OFC S.S.	$ 579
Manning, Peyton/Ole Miss/Pitt Adidas	$ 579
McCovey, Willie Giants w/ HOF	$ 299
McNabb, Donovan OFC Eagles	$ 499
Miller, Heath Steelers	$ 199
Montana, Joe San Fran TB	$ 399
Moon, Warren Oilers HOF	$ 229
Murphy, Dale Braves w/'82, '83 MVP	$ 199
Musial, Stan ORC Cards	$ 349
Newsome, Ozzie Browns	$ 199
Palmer, Carson Bengals	$ 399
Parker, Willie Steeler w/SB Champs	$ 229
Perry, William Bears	$ 179
Plunkett, Jim Raiders	$ 249
Portis, Clinton Skins/Canes	$ 249
Posednick, Scott White Sox	$ 249
Rice, Jerry S.F./Raiders	$ 349
Ripken, Cal Jr. Orioles	$ 499
Rodriguez, Alex Yankees	$ 499
Rose, Pete Reds M.M.	$ 329
Sanders, Barry Lions/OK St	$ 399
Sayers, Gale Bears HOF	$ 299
Schmidt, Mike Phillies w/ HOF	$ 299
Sheffield, Gary Yankees	$ 99
Simms, Phil NY Giants S.S.	$ 299
Smith, Ozzie Cardinals	$ 279
Snider, Duke LAD HOF	$ 229
Stabler, Ken Raiders/Ala	$ 249
Staubach, Roger Dallas HOF	$ 349
Steel Curtain (4-sigs)	$ 349
Taylor, Lawrence Giants/HOF	$ 299
Theisman, Joe Skins	$ 249
Urlacher, Brian Bears	$ 349
Vick, Michael Falcons	$ 399
Walker, Herschel UGA/Heis/Dal	$ 249
Williams, Roy Cowboys	$ 229
Woodson, Chas Raid/Mich	$ 249
Young, Steve SF/HOF	$ 329

BATS

Alomar, Roberto (R) J.S.A.	$ 109
Banks, Ernie (R) ENG HOF	$ 229
Boggs, Wade Anthony (R) ENG	$ 229
Carter, Gary Edmund (R) ENG	$ 149
Chavez, Eric (R)	$ 89
Drew, JD (R) ENG T.S.P.	$ 129
Gibson, Bob (R) ENG	$ 119
Griffey, Ken Jr. (LS) C271 UDA	$ 329
Jackson, Reggie (R) ENG	$ 299
Jeter, Derek (LS) C271 S.S.	$ 649
Jones, Andrux (R) ENG ASI	$ 169
Jones, Chipper (R) ENG	$ 169
Kaline, AL (R) ENG HOF	$ 139
Larkin, Barry (R) '95 NL MVP	$ 119
Mays, Willie (A) ENG TSP	$ 449
Murphy, Dale (R) Career Stat	$ 119
Perez, Tony (R) ENG GTSM	$ 139
Ripken, Cal Jr. (R) Eng. CSA	$ 499
Rose, Pete (R) "4256" MM	$ 229
Schmidt, Mike (R) Eng. Stat GTSM	$ 269
Sheffield, Gary (R) ENG	$ 149
Sosa, Sammy (LS) ENG	$ 299
Williams, Billy (R) ENG S.S.H.	$ 119

FOOTBALL 8 x 10 & 16 x 20

Aikman, Troy Dallas $109 or 16x20	$159
Allen, Marcus Raid/KC $59 or 16x20	$89
Barber, Tiki NYG $89 or 16x20	$149
Bears Soldier Field '85 (3-Sigs)	$249
Bellino, Joe Navy/Heis	$ 29
Blount, Mel Steelers HOF	$ 35
Blue, Greg U Georgia	$ 45
Bolden, Anquan FSU/AZ	$ 45
Bosworth, Brian Oklahoma	$ 45
Bowden, Bobby FSU $59 or 16x20	$ 79
Brady, Kyle Jaguars/Penn St	$ 25
Branch, Cliff Raiders	$ 19
Branch, Deion Pats $39 or 16x20	$ 69
Brown, Chris Titans $25 or 16x20	$ 69
Brown, Ronnie Dolphins	$ 79
Bruce, Issac Rams GTSM	$ 29
Bullock, Keith Titans/Syr	$ 25
Burress, Plaxico NYG $39 or 16x20	$ 69
Bush, Reggie USC/Saints $199 16x20	$169
Butz, Dave Redskins	$ 19
Campbell, Jason Aub/Skins	$ 25
Cannon, Billy LSU/Heis	$ 19
Cappelletti, John Rams	$ 19
Carson, Harry NYG	$ 39
Carter, Chris Vikings	$ 39
Cassady, H. (OSU Heis) T.S.P.	$ 22
Chambers, Chris Dolphins	$ 25
Clark, Dwight San Fran	$ 29
Clayton, Michael LSU/Bucs	$ 29
Couch, Eric NEB/Heis T.S.P	$ 29
Couch, Tim T.S.P. (KY/Clev)	$ 25
Crow, John David TX A&M Heis	$ 22
Davis, Glenn Army/Heis TSP	$ 49
Davis, Willie Packers HOF	$ 19
Dawson, Len T.S.P./Chiefs HOF	$ 35
Dayne, Ron Wisc w/ '99 Heis	$ 39
Delhomme, Jake Panters	$ 69
Dent, R. Bears SBMVP $25 or 16x20	$ 59
Ditka, Mike Bears "Coaching"	$ 49
Donovan, Art Colts HOF	$ 19
Dorsett, Tony Dallas/U Pitt	$ 59
Dutton, John Cowboys S.C.A.	$ 15
Edwards, Brayon Clev/Michigan	$ 25
Evans, Lee Bills/Misc.	$ 25
Faulk, Kevin Patriots	$ 25
Favre, Brett B.F.H. Packers	$119
Feliy, Jim Bills/HOF/U. Miami	$ 49
Foote, Larry Steelers/Mich	$ 25
Foster, DeShaun Car & UCLA	$ 35
Gafney, Jabbar Texans/Fa	$ 25
Galloway, Joey Bucs $29 or 16x20	$ 59
Gamble, Chris Ohio St	$ 25
Gates, Antonio Chargers $39 or 16x20	$ 69
Glover, LaRoi Dallas	$ 15
Gore, Frank San Fran	$ 29
Green, Ahman Packers $39 or 16x20	$ 69
Griese, Bob Miami HOF	$ 49
Haley, Charles Dallas/SF	$ 25
Hanburger, Chris (Skins Hog)	$ 15
Harper, Alvin Vols/Dallas	$ 25
Harris, Franco Steelers $89 or 16x20	$129
Harris, Tommie OU	$ 21
Hawk, AJ Packers/OSU $49 16x20	$ 79
Henry, Travis Titans/Vols	$ 25
Holmes, Santonio Ohio St/Steelers	$ 29
Horning, Paul HOF $29 or 16x20	$ 59
Jacobs, Brandon Giants $39 16x20	$ 69
Jacoby, Joe Redskins Hogs	$ 17
Jaworski, Ron Eagles	$ 19
Jenkins, Michael Ohio St./Atl	$ 29
Johnson, Chad Bengals	$ 59
Johnson, Larry Penn St./Chiefs	$ 49
Johnson, Rudi Bengals	$ 25
Joiner, Charlie (Chargers) HOF	$ 21
Jones, Deacon HOF Rams/SD	$ 25
Jones, Greg Florida St.	$ 25
Jones, Kevin VaTech $25 Lions 16x20	$ 59
Jones-Drew, Maurice Jaguars	$ 35
Kelly, Leroy HOF Browns	$ 19
Kilmer, Billy M.M. Skins	$ 19
Kosar, Bernie Clev/Canes	$ 39
Krause, Paul HOF C.S.A Vikings	$ 25
Langer, Jim HOF CSA Dolphins	$ 21
Lattner, Johnny N.D. Heis	$ 22
Lavelli, Dante Browns HOF	$ 19
Lofors, Stefan Louisville	$ 21

BASKETBALL 8 x 10

Archibald, Nate Celtics	$ 25
Arizin, Paul Phil Warriors	$ 39
Bird, Larry Celtics 16x20 S.S.	$199
Carter, Vince Nets/UNC 16x20	$129
Cousey, Bob Celtics 16x20	$ 79
Dawkins, Dave Celtics 11x14	$ 45
Gervin, George "Iceman" S.S.	$ 35
Hardaway, A. (Magic)(F) UDA (Athlon)	$ 49
Hayes, Chuck (Kentucky) A.A.	$ 25
Johnson, Magic 16x20 A.S.L.	$139
Kemp, S. (Sea) (F) UDA (Athlon)	$ 49
Livingston, Shawn Clippers	$ 19
Maggette, Corey Clippers	$ 25
Malone, Moses Rockets	$ 29
McHale, Kevin Celtics 11x14	$ 59
Myles, Ellis Louisville	$ 21
O'Bannon, Larry Louisville	$ 21
Robertson, Oscar Bucks HOF	$ 69
Thurmond, Nate Warriors HOF	$ 25
Walton, Bill Clettics 16x20	$ 69
Williams, Deron Utah Draft Pose	$ 19
Wooden, John UCLA 16x20	$119

BASKETBALLS

Abdur-Rahim, S I/O S.B.	$ 59
Bird, Larry I/O S.S.	$ 349
Camby, Marcus I/O	$ 99
Carter, Vince I/O S.S.	$ 299
Cousey, Bob I/O	$ 169
Dawkins, Dave Celtics I/O	$ 149
Erving, Julius I/O RDM	$ 329
Frazier, Walt I/O S.S.	$ 149
Frye, Channing I/O S.S.	$ 109
Gay, Rudy I/O S.S.	$ 109
Gervin, George I/O HOF	$ 129
Jabbar, K. Abdul I/O GTSM	$ 299
James, LeBron ORC UDA	$ 599
Johnson, Magic I/O ASL	$ 329
Jordan, M. U.D.A. Wilson	$1,499
Kidd, Jason I/O S.S.	$ 199
Magette, Corey I/O GAI	$ 119
O'Neal, Shaq MM	$ 399
Pippen, Scottie I/O	$ 249
Robertson, Oscar I/O	$ 199
Rodman, Dennis I/O S.S.	$ 149
Smith, Joe S.B. I/O	$ 59
Thomah, Isiah I/O	$ 189

BASEBALLS & 8 x 10 PHOTOS

Players	8x10	Baseball	Players	8x10	Baseball
Aaron, Hank S.S.	–	$ 249	Lynn, Fred	$ 25	$ 49
Alomar, Roberto J.S.A.	–	$ 79	Maddux, Greg A.S.L.	–	$ 49
Anderson, Brian OS W.S.	–	$ 59	Marichal, Juan	$ 25	–
Arroyo, Bronson	–	$ 59	Matsui, Kaz	–	$ 89
Bahnsen, Stan NYY	$ 15	$ 39	Mattingly, Don S.S.	–	$109
Banks, Ernie MLB	$ 59	$ 119	Mays, Willie M.HOLO	–	$ 229
Bauer, Hank S.S.	$ 12	$ 39	McCovey, Willie "521" HR	–	$ 109
Bench, J. HOF GTSM	–	$ 99	McLain, Denny "31-6"	$ 17	$ 39
Benson, Kris F.J.	–	$ 59	Molitor, Paul	–	$ 99
Berra, Yogi MLB	–	$109	Mondesi, Raul A.S.L.	–	$ 45
Blalock, Hank ASL	–	$ 59	Morgan, Joe S.S.	–	$ 89
Boggs, Wade	–	$109	Murphy, Dale	–	$ 69
Bonds, Barry B.HOLO	–	$ 429	Musial, Stan S.M.I.	–	$ 119
Boyer, Clete S.S.	$ 15	$ 39	Myres, Brett A.S.L	$ 19	$ 45
Branca/Thompson w/ INSC	–	$ 89	Nettles, Graig NYY	$ 21	–
Brett, George HOF	–	$ 139	Newcombe, Don '56 CY	$ 19	$ 45
Burrell, Pat ASI	–	$ 59	Nieko, P. HOF S.S.	$ 29	$ 69
Butler, Brett CSA	$ 14	$ 29	Palmer, Jim S.S.	$ 29	$ 89
Cano, Robinson S.S.	–	$ 119	Parker, Dave C.S.A.	–	$ 39
Cano, Robinson	–	$ 109	Payton, Jay A.S.I.	–	$ 45
Canseco, Jose 86 ROY	$ 25	$ 59	Penny, Brad A.S.L.	–	$ 69
Carlton, S. MLB	$ 39	$ 69	Pepitone, Joe (NYY)	$ 19	$ 45
Casey, Sean MLB	–	$ 59	Perez, Tony M.M.	$ 29	$ 59
Cepeda, D. 67 MVP S.S.	–	$ 49	Perry, Gaylord	$ 25	$ 49
Chavez, Eric A.S.L.	–	$ 59	Podres, Johnny	$ 17	$ 45
Contreras, Jose '05 W.S.	–	$ 119	Podsednik, Scott '05 W.S.	–	$ 99
Crede, Joe 05 W.S.	–	$ 79	Powell, Boog C.S.A.	$ 19	–
Dawson, A. T.S.P.	$ 25	$ 49	Remlinger, Mike Cubs	$ 10	–
Drew, JD	–	$ 69	Renteria, Edgar F.I.	–	$ 69
Dunn, Adam ASI	$ 29	$ 69	Rice, Jim T.S.P.	$ 25	–
Feller, Bob HOF	$ 19	$ 49	Richardson, Bobby	$ 17	$ 39
Fingers, Rollie HOF	$ 21	$ 59	Ripken, Cal Jr. S.S.	–	$ 225
Floyd, Cliff Mets	$ 25	$ 59	Roberts, Brian F.I.	–	$ 59
Ford, Whitey S.S.	$ 59	$ 109	Roberts, Robin T.S./HOF	$ 25	$ 49
Foster, George GTSM	$ 19	$ 45	Robinson, B.S.B.	$ 39	$ 69
Garvey, Steve T.S.P.	$ 15	$ 49	Robinson, Frank S.S.	$ 39	–
Gibson, Bob MLB	$ 45	$ 109	Rodriguez, Alex S.S.	–	$ 389
Glavine, Tom	$ 69	$ 109	Rose, Pete S.S./C.S.A.	$ 59	$ 89
Gonzalez, Juan MLB	–	$

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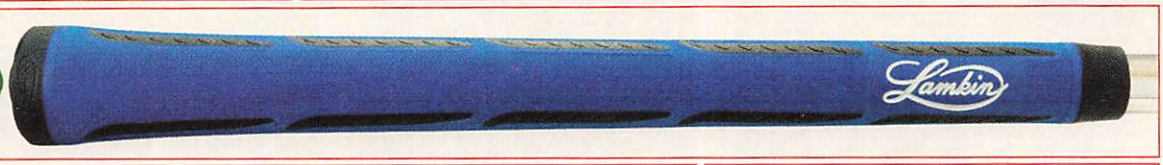

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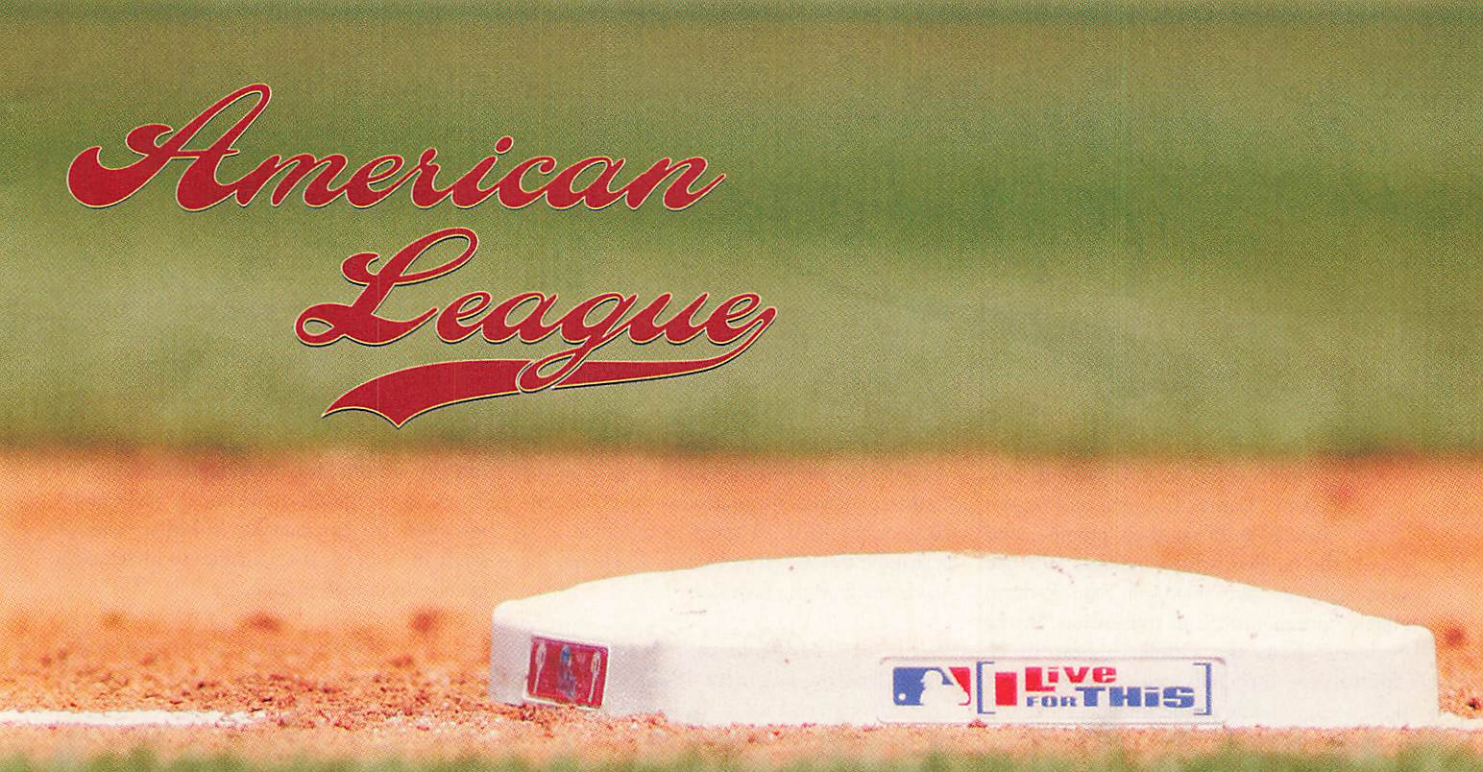
American League



PREDICTIONS 2007

East	Central	West
1. New York	1. Chicago	1. Los Angeles
2. Boston	2. Detroit*	2. Texas
3. Toronto	3. Minnesota	3. Oakland
4. Baltimore	4. Cleveland	4. Seattle
5. Tampa Bay	5. Kansas City	

*Wild Card

ALCS
New York Yankees over Chicago White Sox

World Series
New York Yankees over Los Angeles Dodgers

MVP
1. Michael Young, Texas
2. Derek Jeter, New York
3. Joe Mauer, Minnesota

Cy Young
1. Chien-Ming Wang, New York
2. Johan Santana, Minnesota
3. Roy Halladay, Toronto

ROY
Alex Gordon, Kansas City

Get more American League coverage throughout the season at www.athlonsports.com.

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

Baltimore Orioles

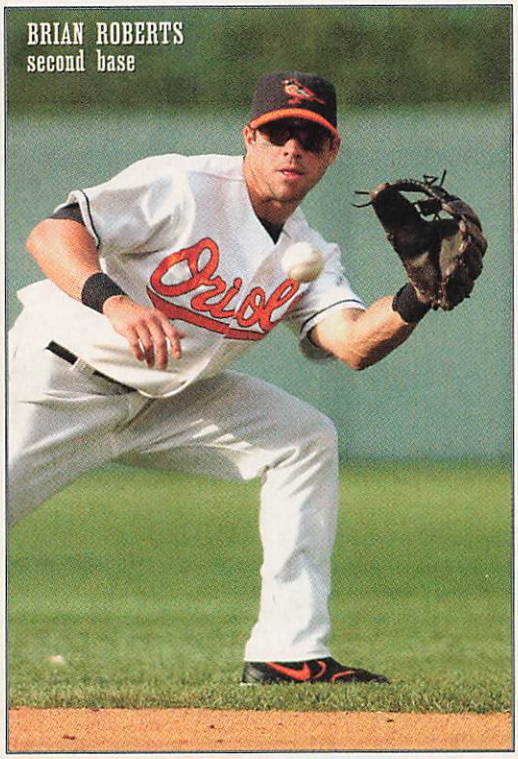
2007 Prediction: 4th

2006 Finish: 70–92

AL East

Nine straight losing seasons will grow to 10 unless young starting pitchers Erik Bedard, Daniel Cabrera and Adam Loewen build on their promise, and the bullpen, which includes four free agent signings, gives manager Sam Perlozzo reliable options instead of indigestion. In the tough AL East, the Orioles appear to be improved — especially with Aubrey Huff added to the middle of the lineup — but still overmatched. And fans are losing patience as quickly as the team loses games.

Rotation Rebuffed after making a late offer to free agent pitcher Jason Schmidt, the Orioles most likely will hand the ball to Bedard on Opening Day. Bedard won a career-high 15 games last season, most on the staff, and his 3.76 ERA ranked ninth in the league. He'll probably be No. 1 by default. The rotation also includes the wild but promising Cabrera, who took a no-hitter into the ninth inning in his final start at Yankee Stadium, and veterans Kris Benson and Jaret Wright. Benson decided against exercising his right to demand a trade. Wright came to the Orioles in a trade with the Yankees. Loewen, the fourth overall pick in the 2002 draft, made 19 starts as a rookie after beginning the season in Double-A. He has the inside track on the fifth slot.



Bullpen The Orioles used 19 relievers last season, and the unit went 19–25 with a 5.25 ERA that ranked 13th in the league. The organization made the bullpen a priority over the winter and signed four free agents: Jamie Walker, Danys Baez, Chad Bradford and Scott Williamson. Walker will be the left-handed specialist; Baez the right-handed setup man. Bradford also will work the later innings. They'll try to form a bridge to closer Chris Ray, who saved 33 games after inheriting the job from B.J. Ryan. If Ray struggles, Baez, Bradford and Williamson have closer experience.

Middle Infield This is one area where the Orioles are the envy of many teams. Shortstop Miguel Tejada was named Most Valuable Oriole for the second time in three seasons after batting .330 with 100 RBIs and setting a club record with 214 hits. His average was the second-highest in team history. And the Orioles have control of him for three more seasons. Second baseman Brian Roberts returned from left elbow surgery and slowly regained his power stroke. Roberts, who had a career-high 36 stolen bases, should be more productive from the right side now that he's healthy again. He batted .235 with only one home run as a right-handed hitter.

Corners Given a long-term contract extension during the season, third baseman Melvin Mora played in a career-high 155 games but suffered drop-offs in average, home runs and RBIs. His 275 RBIs over the last three seasons trail only Alex Rodriguez (356) and Hank Blalock (276) among AL third basemen. His .299 average trails only Rodriguez (.301). Newly acquired Aubrey Huff also can play third base, and he'll make plenty of starts at first. Huff has hit 20 or more home runs in five straight seasons and provides protection for Tejada in the middle of the lineup. The Orioles re-signed first baseman Kevin Millar, who hit safely in 29 of his last 35 games to increase his average from .238 to .272.

Outfield Huff and another free agent acquisition, Jay Payton, will get plenty of starts in left field. Payton is the superior defensive player, but Huff has more power. Center fielder Corey Patterson revived his career after coming over in a trade with the Chicago Cubs, stealing a career-high 45 bases and increasing his average by 61 points. He also played Gold Glove-caliber defense. Nick Markakis replaced Jay Gibbons in right field and lived up to the hype as a rookie. The former first-round draft choice should be entrenched at the position for many years after batting .314 from May 27 through the end of the season.

Catcher This position is no longer a weakness. Ramon Hernandez proved to be a wise free agent signing, establishing career highs in home runs (23), RBIs (91), doubles (29) and games played (144). His home run total tied Jorge Posada for most among AL catchers. He also was exceptional behind the plate, living up to his reputation by throwing out 38.9 percent of runners attempting to steal. The Orioles signed veteran Paul Bako to back up Hernandez after using four different reserves last season with unsatisfactory results. They also signed former Pittsburgh Pirates top prospect J.R. House to a minor league deal.

DH/Bench Jay Gibbons appeared in only 90 games because of injuries. If finally able to stay healthy, he could be the primary desig-

STATLINE

Highest Career ERA/Fewer than 8.5 H per 9 IP

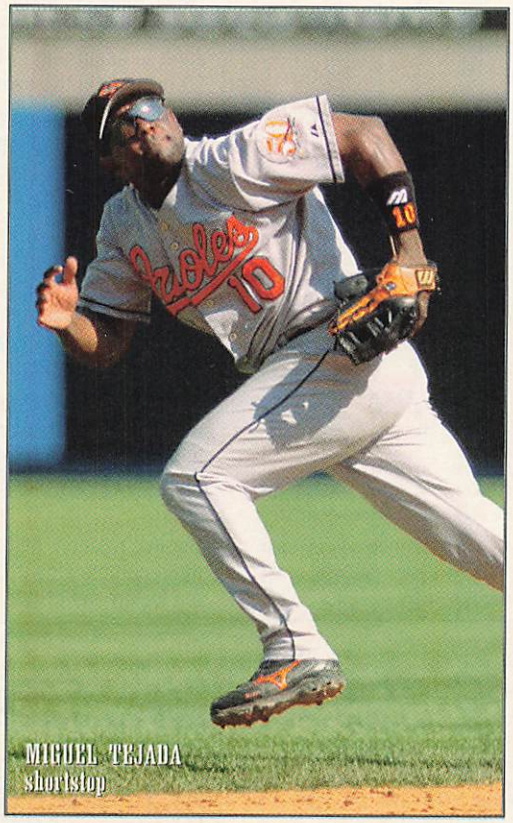
1. Dick Drott 4.78
2. **Daniel Cabrera 4.75**
3. Oliver Perez 4.67
4. Robert Person 4.64
5. John D'Acquisto 4.56

(minimum 80 starts)

nated hitter while also getting some time at first base. The Orioles re-signed utility infielder Chris Gomez, who batted .437 in September and can play all four infield positions. The team traded for Freddie Bynum, who can move between the infield and outfield. Brandon Fahey is another viable bench option after playing 53 games in left field as a rookie, one in right, 17 at shortstop, 13 at second and one at third.

Management Mike Flanagan remains the executive vice president of baseball operations and a favorite of majority owner Peter Angelos. Jim Duquette serves as vice president of baseball operations and maintains an active role in the front office, often taking the lead in contract negotiations and trade discussions. Together, they signed nine free agents and made two trades before Jan. 1. They almost pulled off another trade, but Angelos nixed a deal that would have sent Roberts and young pitcher Hayden Penn to the Atlanta Braves for Marcus Giles and Adam LaRoche. Perlozzo has more to work with this season but still must demonstrate that he's the right man to lead the Orioles back into the playoffs, from which they've been absent since 1997.

Final Analysis Fans want Angelos to sell the team. They also wanted the front office to make a bold move over the winter, but the most desirable free agents signed elsewhere. Improvements were made in the bullpen, and Huff's signing should make the lineup more formidable. Considering that Fahey, a skinny minor league shortstop, was the primary left fielder late in the 2006 season, Huff and Payton must be regarded as significant upgrades. And pitching coach Leo Mazzone got the most out of Wright in Atlanta, so their reunion brings much anticipation. But in the AL East, all of this probably means another fourth-place finish.



FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Miguel Tejada
High-Dividend Hurler: Chris Ray
Buy Recommendation: Nick Markakis
Sell Recommendation: Melvin Mora
Medical (In)Securities: Jay Gibbons
IPO: RHP Hayden Penn
Futures Market: 3B Billy Rowell
Insider Tip: Wild Daniel Cabrera is worth an end-game stab; no one has better stuff.

STATISTICIAN

1.59 Erik Bedard's ERA in his 15 wins.
8.42 Bedard's ERA in his 11 defeats.
34–28 The Orioles' record against teams with losing records.
36–64 The Orioles' record against teams with winning records.
16–33 The Orioles' record against left-handed starting pitchers.
12 Grand slams allowed by the Orioles, a franchise record and most in the majors.
1 Grand slams hit by the Orioles.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Unable to find a reliable left-handed setup man since B.J. Ryan moved to closer in 2005, the Orioles signed free agent Jamie Walker to a three-year, $12 million contract. Walker issued only eight walks in 48 innings with the Detroit Tigers last season, which was typical of the control he's displayed. He's totaled 82 walks and 244 strikeouts over his seven-year career. Lefthanders had a .262 on-base percentage against Walker last season, and he's held them to a .230 average over his career. He's a weapon in the bullpen that's sorely needed.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

2B Brian Roberts
Batted .308 with 9 of his 10 HRs from left side; .235 from right.

3B Melvin Mora
Played in career-high 155 games, missing five in September.

RF Nick Markakis
Rookie led the bigs with .366 average over June, July and August.

SS Miguel Tejada
Most Valuable Oriole after batting .330 with team-record 214 hits.

1B Aubrey Huff
Five straight seasons of 20 or more homers; will also play left.

C Ramon Hernandez
His 87 RBIs as catcher broke Chris Hoiles' team record of 82.

DH Jay Gibbons
Missed 53 games while making two trips to DL.

LF Jay Payton
Free agent can play center and right vs. tough lefthanders.

CF Corey Patterson
Increased average by 61 points and had career-high 45 SBs.

BENCH

1B/DH Kevin Millar
Hit safely in 29 of last 35 games and batted .344 in September.

INF Chris Gomez
Spent most of first half on DL; hit .402 after break.

C Paul Bako
Journeyman was once Greg Maddux's personal catcher.

UT Freddie Bynum
Brings speed and ability to play multiple positions.

ROTATION

LHP Erik Bedard
Led staff in wins (15), IP (196.1), starts (33) and Ks (171).

RHP Kris Benson
Allowed two earned runs or fewer in 14 games.

RHP Daniel Cabrera
Must improve control; walked 104 batters in 148 innings.

RHP Jaret Wright
Acquired from Yankees for middle reliever Chris Britton.

LHP Adam Loewen
Fourth overall pick in 2002 will get a shot to earn a spot.

BULLPEN

RHP Chris Ray
Went 33 for 38 in save chances in first season as closer.

RHP Danys Baez
Free agent has closed in past but needed as righty setup.

RHP Chad Bradford
Submarine-stylist signed to mostly pitch seventh inning.

RHP Scott Williamson
Signed to provide bullpen depth but must prove he's healthy.

LHP Kurt Birkins
Opponents batted .221 during his three-month stay

LHP Jamie Walker
Given three-year, $12 million contract to be lefty specialist.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Sam Perlozzo **COACHES:** Terry Crowley, Rick Dempsey, Leo Mazzone, Sam Mejias, Juan Samuel, Tom Trebelhorn

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
	Danys Baez	R-R	9/10/77	**ATLANTA**	**0-1**	**5.40**	**11**	**0**	**10.0**	**10**
				LOS ANGELES NL	**5-5**	**4.35**	**46**	**9**	**49.2**	**29**
45	Erik Bedard	L-L	3/6/79	**BALTIMORE**	**15-11**	**3.76**	**33**	**0**	**196.1**	**171**
34	Kris Benson	R-R	11/7/74	**BALTIMORE**	**11-12**	**4.82**	**30**	**0**	**183.0**	**88**
25	Kurt Birkins	L-L	8/11/80	**BALTIMORE**	**5-2**	**4.94**	**35**	**0**	**31.0**	**27**
				Ottawa (AAA)	1-3	3.20	5	0	25.1	19
				Bowie (AA)	0-1	9.00	2	0	4.0	5
				Aberdeen (A)	1-1	3.38	2	0	2.2	2
				Frederick (A)	0-0	0.00	1	0	1.0	1
	Chad Bradford	R-R	9/14/74	**NEW YORK NL**	**4-2**	**2.90**	**70**	**2**	**62.0**	**45**
56	Brian Burres	L-L	4/8/81	**BALTIMORE**	**0-0**	**2.25**	**11**	**0**	**8.0**	**6**
				Ottawa (AAA)	10-6	3.76	26	0	139.0	110
35	Daniel Cabrera	R-R	5/28/81	**BALTIMORE**	**9-10**	**4.74**	**26**	**0**	**148.0**	**157**
				Ottawa (AAA)	3-1	4.07	4	0	24.1	27
				Bowie (AA)	0-0	0.00	1	0	4.0	7
	Anderson Garcia	R-R	3/23/81	Ottawa (AAA)	0-0	2.70	5	0	6.2	3
				Bowie (AA)	2-1	2.16	4	0	8.1	8
				Norfolk (AAA)	1-4	6.32	20	0	31.1	18
				Binghamton (AA)	1-1	1.29	11	1	21.0	17
				GCL Mets (R)	0-0	3.00	2	0	3.0	3
47	Jim Hoey	R-R	12/30/82	**BALTIMORE**	**0-1**	**10.24**	**12**	**0**	**9.2**	**6**
				Bowie (AA)	0-0	4.00	8	4	9.0	11
				Delmarva (A)	2-1	2.54	27	18	28.1	46
				Frederick (A)	0-0	0.64	14	11	14.0	16
	Jim Johnson	R-R	6/27/83	**BALTIMORE**	**0-1**	**24.00**	**1**	**0**	**3.0**	**0**
				Bowie (AA)	13-6	4.44	27	0	156.0	124
	Ryan Keefer	L-R	8/10/81	Bowie (AA)	0-0	3.00	5	0	9.0	13
				Aberdeen (A)	2-0	2.20	10	0	16.1	17
29	Adam Loewen	L-L	4/9/84	**BALTIMORE**	**6-6**	**5.37**	**22**	**0**	**112.1**	**98**
				Ottawa (AAA)	2-0	1.27	3	0	21.1	21
				Bowie (AA)	4-2	2.72	9	0	49.2	55
36	John Parrish	L-L	11/26/77	INJURED	Missed Season					
49	Hayden Penn	R-R	10/13/84	**BALTIMORE**	**0-4**	**15.10**	**6**	**0**	**19.2**	**8**
				Ottawa (AAA)	7-4	2.26	14	0	87.2	85
				Bowie (AA)	0-0	9.00	1	0	2.0	1
37	Chris Ray	R-R	1/12/82	**BALTIMORE**	**4-4**	**2.73**	**61**	**33**	**66.0**	**51**
78	Sendy Rleal	R-R	6/21/80	**BALTIMORE**	**1-1**	**4.44**	**42**	**0**	**46.2**	**19**
				Ottawa (AAA)	2-2	6.65	19	0	23.0	14
	Marino Salas	R-R	2/2/81	Bowie (AA)	2-6	2.92	44	19	49.1	46
	Jamie Walker	L-L	7/1/71	**DETROIT**	**0-1**	**2.81**	**56**	**0**	**48.0**	**37**
	Scott Williamson	R-R	2/17/76	**CHICAGO NL**	**2-3**	**5.08**	**31**	**0**	**28.1**	**32**
				SAN DIEGO	**0-1**	**7.36**	**11**	**0**	**11.0**	**10**
	Jaret Wright	R-R	12/29/75	**NEW YORK AL**	**11-7**	**4.49**	**30**	**0**	**140.1**	**84**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
	Paul Bako	L-R	6/20/72	**KANSAS CITY**	**.209**	**56**	**153**	**32**	**0**	**10**	**0**
				Wichita (AA)	.167	3	12	3	0	2	0
55	Ramon Hernandez	R-R	5/27/76	**BALTIMORE**	**.275**	**144**	**501**	**66**	**23**	**91**	**43**
	J.R. House	R-R	1/11/79	**HOUSTON**	**.000**	**4**	**9**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Round Rock (AAA)	.412	31	114	25	5	36	0
				Corpus Christi (AA)	.325	97	379	58	10	69	2

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
12	Brandon Fahey	L-R	1/18/81	**BALTIMORE**	**.235**	**91**	**251**	**36**	**2**	**23**	**3**
				Ottawa (AAA)	.279	20	68	8	0	3	4
14	Chris Gomez	R-R	5/16/71	**BALTIMORE**	**.341**	**55**	**132**	**14**	**2**	**17**	**1**
				Bowie (AA)	.250	4	16	4	0	1	0
				Aberdeen (A)	.333	1	3	0	0	1	0
	Luis Hernandez	S-R	6/26/84	Richmond (AAA)	.192	19	73	3	1	5	0
				Mississippi (AA)	.268	104	380	39	1	29	4
15	Kevin Millar	R-R	9/24/71	**BALTIMORE**	**.272**	**132**	**430**	**64**	**15**	**64**	**1**
6	Melvin Mora	R-R	2/2/72	**BALTIMORE**	**.274**	**155**	**624**	**96**	**16**	**83**	**11**
1	Brian Roberts	S-R	10/9/77	**BALTIMORE**	**.286**	**138**	**563**	**85**	**10**	**55**	**36**
				Bowie (AA)	.200	2	5	0	0	0	0
10	Miguel Tejada	R-R	5/25/76	**BALTIMORE**	**.330**	**162**	**648**	**99**	**24**	**100**	**6**
	Eider Torres	S-R	1/16/83	Buffalo (AAA)	.205	11	44	5	0	2	3
				Akron (AA)	.273	104	428	49	2	42	41

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
	Freddie Bynum	L-R	3/15/80	**CHICAGO NL**	**.257**	**71**	**136**	**20**	**4**	**12**	**8**
				Iowa (AAA)	.227	6	22	3	0	3	0
16	Jeff Fiorentino	L-R	4/14/83	**BALTIMORE**	**.256**	**19**	**39**	**8**	**0**	**7**	**1**
				Bowie (AA)	.275	104	385	63	13	62	9
31	Jay Gibbons	L-L	3/2/77	**BALTIMORE**	**.277**	**90**	**343**	**34**	**13**	**46**	**0**
				Bowie (AA)	.400	3	10	2	0	0	0
				Frederick (A)	.000	2	8	1	0	0	0
	Aubrey Huff	L-R	12/20/76	**TAMPA BAY**	**.283**	**63**	**230**	**26**	**8**	**28**	**0**
				HOUSTON	**.250**	**68**	**224**	**31**	**13**	**38**	**0**
63	Val Majewski	L-L	6/19/81	Ottawa (AAA)	.260	99	323	44	4	39	7
21	Nick Markakis	L-L	11/17/83	**BALTIMORE**	**.291**	**147**	**491**	**72**	**16**	**62**	**2**
17	Corey Patterson	L-R	8/13/79	**BALTIMORE**	**.276**	**135**	**463**	**75**	**16**	**53**	**45**
	Jay Payton	R-R	11/22/72	**OAKLAND**	**.296**	**142**	**557**	**78**	**10**	**59**	**8**
	Adam Stern	L-R	2/12/80	**BOSTON**	**.150**	**10**	**20**	**3**	**0**	**4**	**1**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	.258	93	392	59	8	34	23

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

CLASSIC The Orioles had 11 players participate in the inaugural World Baseball Classic in March, most in the majors, including eight who were included on their Opening Day roster. The five position players batted a combined .289 with two homers and nine RBIs.

SENIOR CIRCUIT WOES Interleague play hasn't been kind to the Orioles, who have posted a winning record against the National League in only two of 10 seasons. They are 73–102 against the NL, the second-worst record in the majors, though they were a more respectable 9–9 in 2006.

SWIPERS The Orioles were successful on their first 20 stolen base attempts, a major league record to begin a season, and had another streak of 21 in a row from May 23 to June 5. According to Elias, no AL team had two streaks of 20 or more in the same season since Kansas City in 1980.

FAST START Though the Orioles finished with a losing record for the ninth straight season, they've been .500 or better in April the last four years. They were 13–13 over the first month in 2006.

FEAST OR FAMINE The Orioles could be overly generous or extremely stingy. In the last three months of the season, they allowed nine or more runs in a game 20 times (including 27 in consecutive games July 21-22). Over that same span, they surrendered three runs or fewer on 25 occasions and posted six shutouts.

POOR TIMING Pitching prospect Hayden Penn was recalled from Triple-A Ottawa to start a May 23 game in Seattle. But he underwent an emergency appendectomy earlier in the day after joining the team and missed nearly seven weeks.

GOING THE DISTANCE Kris Benson, in his first season in the Orioles' rotation, tied for third in the AL with a career-high three complete games. Unfortunately for Benson, he was on the losing end of two of them.

THE FARM SYSTEM

2006 Top Draft Pick

Third baseman **Billy Rowell** looks like he could make a rapid climb to the majors despite being drafted out the high school ranks in New Jersey. Starting out at rookie-level Bluefield, Rowell batted .329 with 15 doubles, three triples, two homers and 26 RBIs in 42 games. Promoted to short-season Single-A Aberdeen on Aug. 28, Rowell hit safely in eight of 11 games, finishing with a .326 average, four doubles, one homer and six RBIs. He can hit the ball to all fields and has developing power.

Prospects

RHP Jim Hoey Named top pitcher in the organization after going from Single-A to majors.

RHP Radhames Liz Struck out 95 in 83 innings at Single-A Frederick; opponents batted .196.

OF Nolan Reimold Rare position prospect in organization played in Futures Game.

LHP Garrett Olson Had 2.77 ERA at Frederick and 3.42 ERA at Double-A Bowie.

RHP Beau Hale Former No. 1 pick back on radar after missing two seasons with injuries.

David Stoner

Boston Red Sox

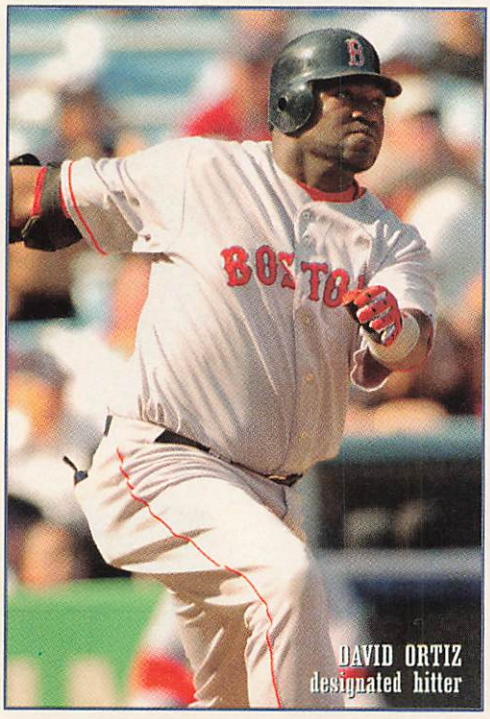
2007 Prediction: 2nd

2006 Finish: 86–76
AL East

Clearly, a third-place finish did not sit well with the Boston Red Sox. So after finishing one game behind the Toronto Blue Jays last year, the Red Sox embarked on a shopping spree during which they increased their payroll to roughly $160 million. As a result, big things are expected in Boston this year, though that is obviously the case every season. "I think fans will never accuse us of being cheap, and they shouldn't accuse us of being irresponsible, either," says Sox general manager Theo Epstein. "There's a middle ground. (Spending) ebbs and flows with the market and how we read our payroll forecast." For now, at least, the forecast seems bright.

Rotation For all of the attention placed on the acquisition of Daisuke Matsuzaka, the Red Sox feel that they added not one starter, but two: The other is Jonathan Papelbon. The Sox announced late last year that Papelbon would go from closer to starter, giving the team a nucleus of Papelbon, Matsuzaka and Josh Beckett in the years to come. While that group could grow if and when Jon Lester continues his return from lymphoma, the 2007 Sox will also have 40-somethings Curt Schilling and Tim Wakefield to rely on. The starting rotation projects as one of the strengths of the team, though depth beyond the starting five could become a concern given the age of Schilling and Wakefield.

Bullpen For all of the questions that face the Red Sox entering 2007, none is greater than this: Who will close? Papelbon emerged as one of the very best finishers in baseball last year, but late-season concerns about his shoulder prompted the switch back to the rotation. And minus Papelbon, Red Sox relievers had a 5.07 ERA that would have ranked 12th in the American League. So what did the Red Sox decide to do? Given the absence of an obvious replacement on the trade and free agent markets, the Red Sox rebuilt their bullpen by bringing in Brendan Donnelly, J.C. Romero and Joel Pineiro, the latter of whom the club signed as a potential closer. Lefty Hideki Okajima was acquired from Japan, while Mike Timlin was re-signed to go along with Julian Tavarez, Craig Hansen and Manny Delcarmen. Let the auditions begin.


DAVID ORTIZ
designated hitter

Steve Moore

Middle Infield For a team with a big payroll, the Red Sox have changed middle infielders with alarming regularity in recent years. In 2003, the tandem of shortstop Nomar Garciaparra and second baseman Todd Walker ended the season. In 2004, it was Orlando Cabrera and Mark Bellhorn. In 2005, Edgar Renteria finished alongside Tony Graffanino. In 2006, Alex Gonzalez teamed with Mark Loretta. For now, at least, the 2007 season will begin with Julio Lugo and Dustin Pedroia, the former a free agent signed to a four-year, $36 million contract and the latter a highly regarded prospect who will be given every chance to succeed. If Pedroia falters, utility man Alex Cora is stationed behind him.

Corners A year ago, the corners were a major question for the Red Sox. Mike Lowell came to Boston off a wretched season as part of the Josh Beckett deal, and Kevin Youkilis had yet to establish his place as an everyday player. The Sox ended up getting

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

SS Julio Lugo
Hit .308 with .373 OBP as leadoff man last season.

1B Kevin Youkilis
Ranked fourth among AL first basemen in OBP (.372) last year.

DH David Ortiz
Leads majors in RBIs (525) since start of '03.

LF Manny Ramirez
Needs only 30 HRs for 500 career.

RF J.D. Drew
Has played in more than 135 games only twice in career.

3B Mike Lowell
Rebounded in '06 with .284 BA, 20 HRs and 80 RBIs.

C Jason Varitek
Batting only .245 since 2005 All-Star break.

CF Coco Crisp
Had just a .293 OBP as leadoff hitter last season.

2B Dustin Pedroia
Hit just .191 in 89 at-bats at end of '06 season.

BENCH

INF Alex Cora
Versatile backup a favorite of manager Terry Francona.

INF/OF Eric Hinske
Hit .293 and slugged .528 against righties last year.

C Doug Mirabelli
Wakefield's personal catcher hit just .191 in '06.

OF Wily Mo Pena
Has nearly as many Ks (378) as career games (386).

ROTATION

RHP Curt Schilling
Turned 40 in November; is he still an ace?

RHP Daisuke Matsuzaka
Went 108–60 with 2.95 ERA during career in Japan.

RHP Josh Beckett
Career bests of 33 games started and 204.2 IP in 2006.

RHP Jonathan Papelbon
Will All-Star closer be as dominating a starter?

RHP Tim Wakefield
His 140 IP last year were his fewest since 1999.

BULLPEN

RHP Joel Pineiro
Former starter will get a chance to close.

RHP Mike Timlin
Needs only 39 appearances for 1,000 career.

LHP Hideki Okajima
Went 34–32 with 3.36 ERA during Japanese career.

RHP Brendan Donnelly
New setup man is 20–5 over the last three seasons.

LHP J.C. Romero
Had 6.70 ERA last year after 3.49 ERA in '04-05.

RHP Julian Tavarez
Went 3–0 with 3.52 ERA in strong September finish.

solid contributions from each, both offensively and defensively, quelling any concerns entering 2007. Whether Lowell and Youkilis can repeat (or improve upon) their performances this year remains to be seen, but the depth of the Boston lineup is considerably better around them, too.

Outfield Every winter, it's the same thing: Will they trade Manny Ramirez or won't they? And then, by the time spring training starts, the Red Sox are counting on Ramirez to hit .300 with roughly 40 home runs and 120 RBIs, giving designated hitter David Ortiz the kind of protection he needs in the middle of the Boston lineup. This year, like last, Coco Crisp will be playing alongside Ramirez in center. The big change comes in right, where the Red Sox agreed to a five-year, $70-million contract with the injury-prone J.D. Drew, who could be a huge addition to the Boston lineup if he can stay healthy. But then, "if" has always been the biggest word in Drew's career.

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: David Ortiz
High-Dividend Hurler: Jonathan Papelbon
Buy Recommendation: Kevin Youkilis
Sell Recommendation: Tim Wakefield
Medical (In)Securities: J.D. Drew
IPO: RHP Daisuke Matsuzaka
Futures Market: OF Jacoby Ellsbury
Insider Tip: Coco Crisp for Comeback POY.

Catching Not so long ago, the Red Sox had a higher OPS from their catchers than any other team in baseball. Last year, Sox catchers batted just .224 overall and posted a .668 OPS that ranked 25th among the 30 major league clubs. So what happened? Nature. In 2006, starter Jason Varitek and backup Doug Mirabelli seemed to age noticeably, though Varitek played virtually the entire year with injuries. Varitek again will get the bulk of the starts this year with Mirabelli serving as personal catcher to knuckleballer Wakefield.

DH/Bench Ortiz continued his amazing run in Boston, setting a franchise record with 54 home runs and knocking in an AL-best 137 runs. His average dipped a bit — down to .287 — but he remains one of the most productive hitters in the game. Due largely to a $160 million payroll, the Red Sox are able to stock their bench with valuable commodities. The first bats off the bench are outfielder Wily Mo Pena and the versatile Eric Hinske, who can spell players at first base, third base and the outfield. Pena, in particular, gives the Sox depth behind Ramirez and the brittle Drew. Meanwhile, because of his relationship with Wakefield, Mirabelli serves a specific purpose behind Varitek. The versatile Cora gives the club depth at second base, third base and shortstop.

Management A year after the unforgettable power struggle between Epstein and president Larry Lucchino, the Red Sox appear to have their house in order again. Boston was one of the most aggressive teams in baseball during the offseason, committing in excess of $200 million to Matsuzaka, Drew and Lugo, increasing their annual payroll by nearly 20 percent. Going forward, Sox officials have made it clear that they will add pieces at the trading deadline. And because Boston has refrained from making quick-fix decisions in recent years, the farm system appears to be getting deeper and deeper.

Final Analysis After going to the playoffs for three straight seasons from 2003-05, the Red Sox slipped up in '06. Despite a $135 million payroll, the Sox finished with an 86–76 record, good for only third place behind the New York Yankees and Toronto Blue Jays in the American League East. On paper, this club looks a good deal stronger, particularly in the lineup and starting rotation. If the Red Sox can get their bullpen situation straightened out and settle on a closer, they should be back in the mix for a postseason berth.

STATLINE

Highest Career FLD% by a Third Baseman

1.	**Mike Lowell**	**.976**
2.	Brooks Robinson	.971
3.	Ken Reitz	.970
4.	George Kell	.969
5.	Steve Buechele	.968

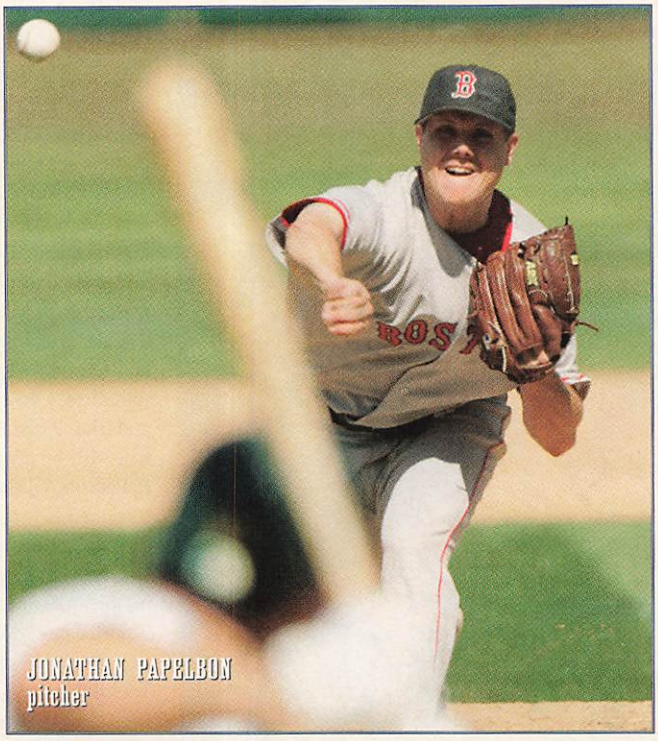
(min. 1,000 games)

STATISTICIAN

4.83 The Red Sox' team ERA last season, a figure that placed them 11th in the AL.
36 Home runs allowed last season by righthander Josh Beckett.
7 Earned runs allowed last season by righthander Jonathan Papelbon.
8 Games won by righthander Matt Clement since the 2005 All-Star break.
.989 Major league-best fielding percentage posted by the Red Sox last season, marking the first time since 1959 that they led the league in fielding percentage.
0 Gold Glove award winners on the Red Sox last season.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

The Red Sox had their eye on **Daisuke Matsuzaka** for a long time before the player was posted by the Seibu Lions in November, so they weren't about to let him get away. And while the Sox expect Matsuzaka to pay dividends immediately at the front end of their starting rotation, they expect him to join Josh Beckett and Jonathan Papelbon as the building blocks of the team's pitching staff for years to come. "We certainly feel that he has the makeup and the history to be able to deal with all of the pressures of playing and winning in Boston," Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein says of Matsuzaka, who first burst onto the scene in Japan as a high schooler.


JONATHAN PAPELBON
pitcher

Papelbon: Michael Zagaris/MLB/Getty Images; Place: Cliff Welch

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

A YEN FOR SPENDING In acquiring Japanese pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka through the posting process, the Red Sox spent more than $103 million, including $51.11 million paid to Matsuzaka's former team (the Seibu Lions) as well as $52 million to the player in a six-year contract.

MAKING CHANGE After missing the playoffs for the first time since 2002, the Red Sox made a pair of major changes to their coaching staff at the end of the 2006 season. John Farrell was brought in from Cleveland to replace Dave Wallace as the pitching coach, and Dave Magadan replaced the deposed Ron Jackson as the hitting coach.

GOOD NEWS Red Sox youngster Jon Lester, diagnosed with lymphoma in August, learned in December that his cancer was in remission. One of the more highly regarded products of the Boston farm system, Lester said he hoped to be back at full strength by the time the club arrived at spring training.

END OF AN ERA For all of the talk typically generated in Boston during an offseason, there was surprisingly little discussion about Red Sox outfielder Trot Nixon. A first-round pick by the Sox in 1993, Nixon effectively ended his Red Sox career last season with a .278 average and 133 home runs.

MUSICAL CHAIRS I When Julio Lugo takes the field for the Red Sox on Opening Day, he will become the fifth regular shortstop in Boston since the start of the 2004 season. During that span, the Red Sox have employed Nomar Garciaparra, Orlando Cabrera, Edgar Renteria and Alex Gonzalez as starters at that position.

MUSICAL CHAIRS II With Dustin Pedroia earmarked to be the starting second baseman, the Red Sox have undergone even more dramatic changes at that position in recent years. Since the start of 2003, Todd Walker, Pokey Reese, Mark Bellhorn, Tony Graffanino and Mark Loretta all have served as the team's starting second baseman.

THE FARM SYSTEM

2006 Top Draft Pick

The Red Sox had two draft picks at the end of the first round last year, interchangeable spots at Nos. 27 and 28. With the former, the Red Sox selected multitalented high school outfielder **Jason Place**, who batted .292 in 33 games in the Gulf Coast League. With the latter, the Sox chose pitcher Daniel Bard, an overpowering righthander out of North Carolina who already has generated significant buzz. Though he did not sign in time to play professionally last year, Bard dazzled Red Sox officials during the Instructional League at the end of last season.

Prospects

RHP Clay Buckholz 9–4 with 2.62 ERA, 117 Ks in 103 IP at A-ball in '06.

OF Jacoby Ellsbury Hit .303 with 41 SBs at Single-A and Double-A in '06.

LHP Jon Lester Promising lefty won't be rushed after cancer scare.

RHP Edgar Martinez Former catcher had 12 saves, 2.61 ERA at Double-A in '06.

3B Chad Spann Batted .294 with .833 OPS at Double-A in '06.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Terry Francona **COACHES:** Brad Mills, John Farrell, Dave Magadan, Luis Alicea, DeMarlo Hale, Gary Tuck

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
19	Josh Beckett	R-R	5/15/80	**BOSTON**	**16-11**	**5.01**	**33**	**0**	**204.2**	**158**
54	Craig Breslow	L-L	8/8/80	**BOSTON**	**0-2**	**3.75**	**13**	**0**	**12.0**	**12**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	7-1	2.69	39	0	67.0	77
30	Matt Clement	R-R	8/12/74	**BOSTON**	**5-5**	**6.61**	**12**	**0**	**65.1**	**43**
				GCL Red Sox (R)	0-0	0.00	1	0	1.0	1
	Nick Debarr	R-R	8/24/83	Visalia (A)	4-3	2.74	40	9	69.0	61
57	Manny Delcarmen	R-R	2/16/82	**BOSTON**	**2-0**	**5.06**	**50**	**0**	**53.1**	**45**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	0-1	2.12	10	0	17.0	19
55	Lenny DiNardo	L-L	9/19/79	**BOSTON**	**1-2**	**7.85**	**13**	**0**	**39.0**	**17**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	0-0	12.00	2	0	3.0	2
				Portland (AA)	0-1	31.50	1	0	2.0	2
				GCL Red Sox (R)	0-0	0.00	2	0	4.2	4
	Brendan Donnelly	R-R	7/4/71	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**6-0**	**3.94**	**62**	**0**	**64.0**	**53**
61	Kason Gabbard	L-L	4/8/82	**BOSTON**	**1-3**	**3.51**	**7**	**0**	**25.2**	**15**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	1-7	5.23	9	0	51.2	48
				Portland (AA)	9-2	2.57	13	0	73.2	68
68	Devern Hansack	R-R	8/5/78	**BOSTON**	**1-1**	**2.70**	**2**	**0**	**10.0**	**8**
				Portland (AA)	8-7	3.26	31	1	132.1	124
56	Craig Hansen	R-R	11/15/83	**BOSTON**	**2-2**	**6.63**	**38**	**0**	**38.0**	**30**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	1-2	2.75	14	0	36.0	26
				Portland (AA)	1-0	0.82	5	0	11.0	12
	Kyle Jackson	R-R	4/9/83	Portland (AA)	3-1	2.45	22	1	36.2	36
				Wilmington (A)	6-0	1.59	24	1	45.1	67
62	Jon Lester	L-L	1/7/84	**BOSTON**	**7-2**	**4.76**	**15**	**0**	**81.1**	**60**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	3-4	2.70	11	0	46.2	43
48	Javier Lopez	L-L	7/11/77	**BOSTON**	**1-0**	**2.70**	**27**	**1**	**16.2**	**11**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	0-0	4.86	13	4	16.2	12
				Charlotte (AAA)	2-1	0.55	26	12	33.0	26
	Edgar Martinez	R-R	10/23/81	Portland (AA)	5-3	2.61	49	12	69.0	59
18	Daisuke Matsuzaka	R-R	9/13/80	Seibu	17-5	2.13	25	0	186.1	200
40	Hideki Okajima	L-L	12/25/75	Nippon Ham	2-2	2.14	55	4	54.2	63
58	Jonathan Papelbon	R-R	11/23/80	**BOSTON**	**4-2**	**0.92**	**59**	**35**	**68.1**	**75**
60	David Pauley	R-R	6/17/83	**BOSTON**	**0-2**	**7.88**	**3**	**0**	**16.0**	**10**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	1-3	5.54	9	0	50.1	25
				Portland (AA)	2-3	2.39	10	0	60.1	47
	Joel Pineiro	R-R	9/25/78	**SEATTLE**	**8-13**	**6.36**	**40**	**1**	**165.2**	**87**
	J.C. Romero	S-L	6/4/76	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**1-2**	**6.70**	**65**	**0**	**48.1**	**31**
38	Curt Schilling	R-R	11/14/66	**BOSTON**	**15-7**	**3.97**	**31**	**0**	**204.0**	**183**
52	Kyle Snyder	S-R	9/9/77	**BOSTON**	**4-5**	**6.02**	**16**	**0**	**58.1**	**55**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	1-1	3.54	3	0	20.1	7
				KANSAS CITY	**0-0**	**22.50**	**1**	**0**	**2.0**	**2**
				Omaha (AAA)	0-4	3.88	10	1	60.1	43
51	Julian Tavarez	L-R	5/22/73	**BOSTON**	**5-4**	**4.47**	**58**	**1**	**98.2**	**56**
50	Mike Timlin	R-R	3/10/66	**BOSTON**	**6-6**	**4.36**	**68**	**9**	**64.0**	**30**
49	Tim Wakefield	R-R	8/2/66	**BOSTON**	**7-11**	**4.63**	**23**	**0**	**140.0**	**90**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
	George Kottaras	L-R	5/16/83	Portland (AAA)	.210	33	119	14	2	17	0
				Mobile (AA)	.276	78	257	40	8	33	0
28	Doug Mirabelli	R-R	10/18/70	**BOSTON**	**.193**	**59**	**161**	**12**	**6**	**25**	**0**
				SAN DIEGO	**.182**	**14**	**22**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
33	Jason Varitek	S-R	4/11/72	**BOSTON**	**.238**	**103**	**365**	**46**	**12**	**55**	**1**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	.429	2	7	2	1	1	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
23	Alex Cora	L-R	10/18/75	**BOSTON**	**.238**	**96**	**235**	**31**	**1**	**18**	**6**
12	Eric Hinske	L-R	8/5/77	**BOSTON**	**.288**	**31**	**80**	**8**	**1**	**5**	**1**
				TORONTO	**.264**	**78**	**197**	**35**	**12**	**29**	**1**
25	Mike Lowell	R-R	2/24/74	**BOSTON**	**.284**	**153**	**573**	**79**	**20**	**80**	**2**
23	Julio Lugo	R-R	11/16/75	**TAMPA BAY**	**.308**	**73**	**289**	**53**	**12**	**27**	**18**
				LOS ANGELES NL	**.219**	**49**	**146**	**16**	**0**	**10**	**6**
34	David Ortiz	L-L	11/18/75	**BOSTON**	**.287**	**151**	**558**	**115**	**54**	**137**	**1**
64	Dustin Pedroia	R-R	8/17/83	**BOSTON**	**.191**	**31**	**89**	**5**	**2**	**7**	**0**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	.305	111	423	55	5	50	1
20	Kevin Youkilis	R-R	3/15/79	**BOSTON**	**.279**	**147**	**569**	**100**	**13**	**72**	**5**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
10	Coco Crisp	S-R	11/1/79	**BOSTON**	**.264**	**105**	**413**	**58**	**8**	**36**	**22**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	.333	1	3	0	0	2	0
	Brandon Moss	L-R	9/16/83	Portland (AA)	.285	133	508	76	12	83	8
60	David Murphy	L-L	10/18/81	**BOSTON**	**.227**	**20**	**22**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**0**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	.267	84	318	45	8	44	3
				Portland (AA)	.273	42	172	22	3	25	4
22	Wily Mo Pena	R-R	1/23/82	**BOSTON**	**.301**	**84**	**276**	**36**	**11**	**42**	**0**
				Pawtucket (AAA)	.244	12	41	8	2	7	0
				Lowell (A)	.167	2	6	1	0	0	0
24	Manny Ramirez	R-R	5/30/72	**BOSTON**	**.321**	**130**	**449**	**79**	**35**	**102**	**0**

New York Yankees

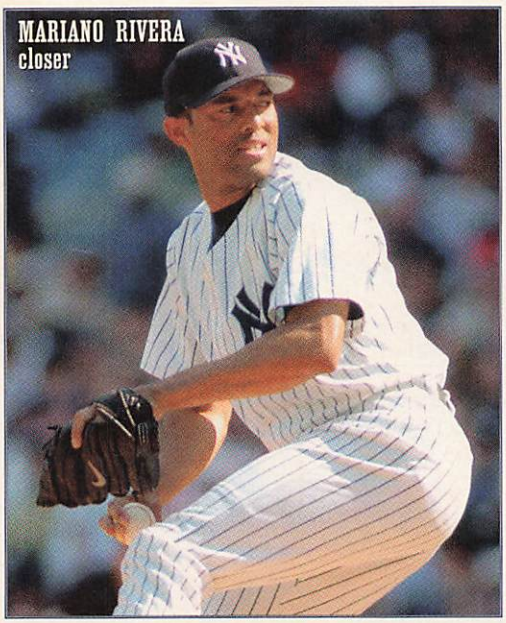
2007 Prediction: 1st

2006 Finish: 97–65

AL East

The Yankees fought hard to earn the AL's best record in 2006, overcoming serious injuries and flattening the Red Sox when it mattered most. They were stunned to be bounced in the first round by Detroit but kept most of the team intact for another run at the playoffs. Expect the Yankees to prevail again and take their chances with an aging rotation in October.

Rotation As they fought for their playoff lives last October, the Yankees turned to Jaret Wright. That alone was an indictment of their rotation, which had been so sturdy in the championship years. As prices soared this winter for seemingly mediocre free agent pitchers, the Yankees signed Andy Pettitte, an old reliable. Pettitte will join Chien-Ming Wang, the sinkerballer who tied for the MLB lead with 19 wins, at the front of the rotation. Like Pettitte, Mike Mussina must hope his elbow holds up. Japanese star Kei Igawa slides into the No. 4 spot in the rotation while Carl Pavano will get another shot to prove he's worth his big contract after missing a year with minor injuries. A lurking presence is Roger Clemens, who seems likely to sign with New York if he decides to continue his Hall of Fame career.


MARIANO RIVERA
closer

Bullpen The Yankees shivered late last season when Mariano Rivera felt tightness near his elbow that caused him to miss three weeks down the stretch. Rivera was healthy by the playoffs, but the Yankees' starting staff gave him only one lead to protect in the division series. At 37, Rivera remains as vital as ever to the team's chances and is still an elite closer. Setup man Kyle Farnsworth impressed with his fastball but was frequently unavailable with back spasms. The emergence of Scott Proctor and, later, Brian Bruney solidified the bridge to Rivera and gave the Yanks four hard-throwing righties. Lefthander Mike Myers struggled in the second half but can still trick hitters in the right situations.

Middle Infield It would be hard to find a team happier with its middle infield than the Yankees. Derek Jeter had the finest season of a Hall of Fame career, nearly winning the MVP award while batting .343 with 97 RBIs, and Robinson Cano made his first All-Star team. Jeter won another Gold Glove at shortstop, and Cano made great strides at second by working closely with coach Larry Bowa. Jeter and Cano also finished second and third, respectively, in the AL batting race. As Cano matures, look for his doubles (41 in 2006) to turn into homers as he establishes himself as a force in the middle of the order.

Corners It was painful, at times, to see a player of Alex Rodriguez's skills fight himself so badly in 2006. Even before his annual playoff disappearance, Rodriguez endured long slumps in the field and at the plate and seemed to be unnerved by nearly constant criticism from fans and media. His chilly relationship with Jeter is a pressing issue for many fans, but probably overblown. Rodriguez showed in his MVP season of 2005 that he can handle New York. He must simplify his approach and let his skills take over. Across the diamond, the Yankees have finally determined that Jason Giambi should be a nearly full-time designated hitter. They signed former Gold Glove winner Doug Mientkiewicz for a defensive upgrade and could platoon him with Andy Phillips or Josh Phelps.

Outfield The Yankees traded Gary Sheffield for prospects in November, comfortable with Bobby Abreu as their solution in right field. Abreu fit in seamlessly with the Yankees after a trade on July 30, running deep counts and seeming oblivious to any pennant-race pressure. His speed and arm also opened eyes in the Bronx. Center fielder Johnny Damon settled the lineup as the leadoff man and took advantage of the short porch in right field at Yankee Stadium for a career-high 24 home runs. He has a weak arm but played through a broken bone in his toe to cover a lot of ground in the outfield. In left, Hideki Matsui is poised to rebound after a broken wrist cost him four months and stopped a consecutive-games streak that stretched for 1,768 games, to his teenage years in Japan.

Catching Logic says that Jorge Posada, at age 35, should start to decline very soon. Yet Posada was a rock for the Yankees, steadily producing all season. Despite turnover at the backup spot, Posada ended the year strong and carried his surge into the playoffs, when he hit .500. The Yankees will rely on him heavily again — their backup options are the well-traveled Raul Chavez and their Class AAA catcher, Wil Nieves, whose last big-league hit was in 2002.

DH/Bench Giambi has long maintained that he hits better when he plays in the field, and the numbers prove his point. He batted .224 when he was the DH last year and .289 when he wasn't. But those numbers matter more to Giambi than the Yankees, who plan to

STATLINE

Fewest Games Missed, Last Decade

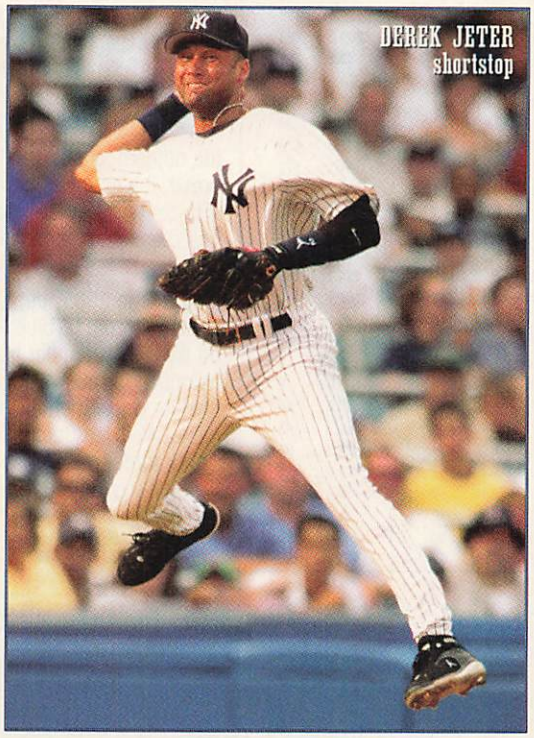
1. Andruw Jones 42
2. Shawn Green 69
3. **Alex Rodriguez 84**
4. **Johnny Damon 105**
5. **Derek Jeter 109**

Rivera & Jeter: Steve Moore

keep him off first base this season. A wrist injury sapped him of his power late last year, and playing in the field aggravated the condition. When healthy, Giambi is still an elite power hitter with an exceptional eye. The DH transition should keep him in the lineup. Joe Torre will need to find at-bats for Melky Cabrera, who sparked the Yankees repeatedly as a regular player last summer when filling in for injured starters. Miguel Cairo, a heady player with sound fundamentals, can back up any spot on the infield.

Management Torre enters the season as a lame duck, with no contract for 2008 and no firm sign that he wants one. In the Yankees' world, there are two outcomes: championship or failure. If Torre wins a fifth title, he can retire on top. If he doesn't, the front office might be ready for a change, anyway. Torre turns 67 in July and never expected to manage 12 seasons in New York. He's a certain Hall of Famer with the full backing of increasingly powerful general manager Brian Cashman. But with Yankee legend Don Mattingly clearly being groomed as his successor — and National League Manager of the Year Joe Girardi in the Yankees' broadcast booth as another option — it's hard to see Torre coming back for 2008.

Final Analysis The Yankees believed they were much better than the Tigers last season, and their playoff failure left them frustrated — and hungry. Most Yankees have never won a World Series ring, but to do it this year, they need more from their starting rotation. They have high-end depth at Triple-A for the first time in a while, and if one of the veterans goes down don't be surprised if the Yankees dip into their farm system. Their veteran rotation will be hailed for its experience, but that won't matter much if injuries sabotage the team's chances. The Yankees have always found their way to the playoffs under Torre, and the lineup is too talented not to lead them back. But with the ultimate burden on their creaky rotation, the Yankees could fall short again.



FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Alex Rodriguez
High-Dividend Hurler: Mariano Rivera
Buy Recommendation: Hideki Matsui
Sell Recommendation: Jorge Posada
Medical (In)Securities: Andy Pettitte
IPO: RHP Humberto Sanchez
Futures Market: RHP Phil Hughes
Insider Tip: Derek Jeter and Robinson Cano will lose 20 points apiece off their batting average.

STATISTICIAN

0 Career stints on the disabled list for Johnny Damon, now in his 13th season.
.381 Derek Jeter's average with runners in scoring position last season.
15 Consecutive seasons with at least 10 victories for Mike Mussina, an AL record.
626 RBIs by Jorge Posada over the last seven seasons, most by any major league catcher.
23 Consecutive starts last season in which Chien-Ming Wang struck out three batters or fewer.
52 Major league players with more extra-base hits last year than Alex Rodriguez (62).
83 Games pitched last season by Scott Proctor, most in the AL.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Alex Rodriguez can defend his season all he wants, but the fact is he had fewer extra-base hits than Ray Durham, Nick Johnson and Eric Byrnes. That is far from adequate for the highest-paid player in baseball. Rodriguez needs to feed off — not run from — the tough love of Yankees fans. He will never win their hearts the way Derek Jeter has, but he has the skills to carry the team the way he did in 2005. If he can find a way to keep the game simple, he can deliver in the clutch the way he does in low-pressure spots. There's still plenty of time to win the championship that has eluded him in an otherwise sterling career.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

CF Johnny Damon
Batted .324 against Boston; perfect fit in the Bronx.

SS Derek Jeter
Leads all big leaguers with 1,955 hits over the last 10 years.

RF Bobby Abreu
MLB leader in walks (124) hiked his power numbers in N.Y.

3B Alex Rodriguez
Will another uneasy season tempt him to opt out of contract?

DH Jason Giambi
Still bashes homers and draws lots of walks.

LF Hideki Matsui
Yanks missed his consistent bat in the lineup for most of '06.

C Jorge Posada
Still producing in the late stages of his career.

2B Robinson Cano
Damon calls him the best hitter on the team; that's high praise.

1B Doug Mientkiewicz
Hit well for the Royals before back surgery in August.

BENCH

OF Melky Cabrera
Strong-armed and patient at plate, he proved himself as a starter.

C Wil Nieves
Near-.300 hitter in minors will compete for backup role.

1B Andy Phillips
Smooth around the bag but must improve K/BB ratio.

INF Miguel Cairo
Popular infielder back for one more year in pinstripes.

ROTATION

RHP Chien-Ming Wang
Best groundball pitcher in the AL, with 3.06 grounders per fly.

LHP Andy Pettitte
A lefty to neutralize Boston's David Ortiz and J.D. Drew.

RHP Mike Mussina
More wins than Whitey Ford, more Ks than Christy Mathewson.

LHP Kei Igawa
194 Ks in Japan in '06, but projects as more of a finesse type.

RHP Carl Pavano
Free agent bust will get another chance to prove his worth.

BULLPEN

RHP Mariano Rivera
Never picks up a ball in the winter to rest his valuable right arm.

RHP Kyle Farnsworth
Not quite as dominant or durable as Yanks had hoped.

RHP Scott Proctor
Yanks wary of overworking him; he will always take the ball.

LHP Mike Myers
At .257, lefties actually hit him better than righties (.224).

RHP Chris Britton
Must control weight issues to repeat fine '06 for Baltimore.

RHP Brian Bruney
Should take pressure off Proctor as Joe Torre's go-to guy.

RHP Luis Vizcaino
Only Mike Timlin has more games among righties since '01.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Joe Torre **COACHES:** Don Mattingly, Tony Pena, Larry Bowa, Ron Guidry, Kevin Long, Joe Kerrigan, Rob Thomson, Rich Monteleone

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
38	T.J. Beam	R-R	8/28/80	**NEW YORK AL**	**2-0**	**8.50**	**20**	**0**	**18.0**	**12**
				Columbus (AAA)	2-0	1.71	19	1	31.2	37
				Trenton (AA)	4-0	0.86	18	3	42.0	34
	Chris Britton	R-R	12/16/82	**BALTIMORE**	**0-2**	**3.35**	**52**	**1**	**53.2**	**41**
				Bowie (AA)	1-0	2.81	13	2	16.0	24
33	Brian Bruney	R-R	2/17/82	**NEW YORK AL**	**1-1**	**0.87**	**19**	**0**	**20.2**	**25**
				Columbus (AAA)	1-1	3.14	11	3	14.1	22
				GCL Yankees (R)	0-0	4.91	3	0	3.2	5
				Tucson (AAA)	0-1	33.75	4	0	2.2	4
	Matt DeSalvo	R-R	9/11/80	Columbus (AAA)	1-6	7.68	11	0	38.2	30
				Trenton (AA)	5-4	5.77	16	0	78.0	52
48	Kyle Farnsworth	R-R	4/14/76	**NEW YORK AL**	**3-6**	**4.36**	**72**	**6**	**66.0**	**75**
58	Sean Henn	R-L	4/23/81	**NEW YORK AL**	**0-1**	**4.82**	**4**	**0**	**9.1**	**7**
				Columbus (AAA)	3-1	4.01	18	0	42.2	33
80	Phil Hughes	R-R	6/4/86	Trenton (AA)	10-3	2.25	21	0	116.0	138
29	Kei Igawa	L-L	7/13/79	Hanshin (Japan)	14-9	2.97	29	0	209.0	194
58	Jeffrey Karstens	R-R	9/24/82	**NEW YORK AL**	**2-1**	**3.80**	**8**	**0**	**42.2**	**16**
				Columbus (AAA)	5-5	4.28	14	0	73.2	48
				Trenton (AA)	6-0	2.31	11	0	74.0	67
	Jeff Kennard	R-R	7/26/81	Trenton (AA)	3-6	3.29	27	1	54.2	58
				Tampa (A)	3-0	1.33	14	2	27.0	19
35	Mike Mussina	L-R	12/8/68	**NEW YORK AL**	**15-7**	**3.51**	**32**	**0**	**197.1**	**172**
36	Mike Myers	L-L	6/26/69	**BOSTON**	**1-2**	**3.23**	**62**	**0**	**30.2**	**22**
45	Carl Pavano	R-R	1/8/76	Columbus (AAA)	1-0	3.00	1	0	6.0	5
				Trenton (AA)	1-0	1.64	3	0	11.0	12
				GCL Yankees (R)	0-2	2.31	3	0	11.2	10
46	Andy Pettitte	L-L	6/15/72	**HOUSTON**	**14-13**	**4.20**	**36**	**0**	**214.1**	**178**
43	Scott Proctor	R-R	1/2/77	**NEW YORK AL**	**6-4**	**3.52**	**83**	**1**	**102.1**	**89**
68	Darrell Rasner	R-R	1/13/81	**NEW YORK AL**	**3-1**	**4.43**	**6**	**0**	**20.1**	**11**
				Columbus (AAA)	4-0	2.76	10	0	58.2	47
				Tampa (A)	0-0	2.57	2	0	7.0	6
				GCL Yankees (R)	0-0	4.50	2	0	6.0	6
42	Mariano Rivera	R-R	11/29/69	**NEW YORK AL**	**5-5**	**1.80**	**63**	**34**	**75.0**	**55**
	Humberto Sanchez	R-R	5/28/83	Toledo (AAA)	5-3	3.86	9	0	51.1	43
				Erie (AA)	5-3	1.76	11	0	71.2	86
31	Jose Veras	R-R	10/20/80	**NEW YORK AL**	**0-0**	**4.09**	**12**	**1**	**11.0**	**6**
				Columbus (AAA)	5-3	2.41	50	21	59.2	68
52	Luis Vizcaino	R-R	8/6/74	ARIZONA	4-6	3.58	70	0	65.1	72
40	Chien-Ming Wang	R-R	3/31/80	**NEW YORK AL**	**19-6**	**3.63**	**34**	**1**	**218.0**	**76**
00	Chase Wright	L-L	2/8/83	Tampa (A)	12-3	1.88	37	0	119.2	100

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	Sb
60	Wil Nieves	R-R	9/25/77	**NEW YORK AL**	**.000**	**6**	**6**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Columbus (AAA)	.259	88	321	29	5	34	2
20	Jorge Posada	S-R	8/17/71	**NEW YORK AL**	**.277**	**143**	**465**	**65**	**23**	**93**	**3**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
14	Miguel Cairo	R-R	5/4/74	**NEW YORK AL**	**.239**	**81**	**222**	**28**	**0**	**30**	**13**
22	Robinson Cano	L-R	10/22/82	**NEW YORK AL**	**.342**	**122**	**482**	**62**	**15**	**78**	**5**
				Trenton (AA)	.500	3	10	1	0	2	0
				GCL Yankees (R)	.400	1	5	0	0	1	0
25	Jason Giambi	L-R	1/8/71	**NEW YORK AL**	**.253**	**139**	**446**	**92**	**37**	**113**	**2**
	Alberto Gonzalez	R-R	4/18/83	Tennessee (AA)	.290	129	434	67	6	50	5
				Tucson (AAA)	.200	4	15	2	0	1	0
2	Derek Jeter	R-R	6/26/74	**NEW YORK AL**	**.343**	**154**	**623**	**118**	**14**	**97**	**34**
	Doug Mientkiewicz	L-R	8/19/74	**KANSAS CITY**	**.283**	**91**	**314**	**37**	**4**	**43**	**3**
	Juan Miranda	L-L	4/25/83	Did Not Play							
	Josh Phelps	R-R	5/12/78	Toledo (AAA)	.308	126	464	60	24	90	6
12	Andy Phillips	R-R	4/6/77	**NEW YORK AL**	**.240**	**110**	**246**	**30**	**7**	**29**	**3**
13	Alex Rodriguez	R-R	7/27/75	**NEW YORK AL**	**.290**	**154**	**572**	**113**	**35**	**121**	**15**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
53	Bobby Abreu	L-R	3/11/74	**NEW YORK AL**	**.330**	**58**	**209**	**37**	**7**	**42**	**10**
				PHILADELPHIA	**.277**	**98**	**339**	**61**	**8**	**65**	**20**
28	Melky Cabrera	S-L	8/11/84	**NEW YORK AL**	**.280**	**130**	**460**	**75**	**7**	**50**	**12**
				Columbus (AAA)	.385	31	122	19	4	24	3
18	Johnny Damon	L-L	11/5/73	**NEW YORK AL**	**.285**	**149**	**593**	**115**	**24**	**80**	**25**
55	Hideki Matsui	L-R	6/12/74	**NEW YORK AL**	**.302**	**51**	**172**	**32**	**8**	**29**	**1**
				Trenton (AA)	.273	4	11	1	0	1	0
27	Kevin Reese	L-L	3/11/78	**NEW YORK AL**	**.417**	**10**	**12**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**1**
				Columbus (AAA)	.283	53	212	30	5	21	4
	Bronson Sardinha	L-R	4/6/83	Columbus (AAA)	.286	52	185	27	6	27	3
				Trenton (AA)	.254	86	334	47	10	40	0
72	Kevin Thompson	R-R	9/18/79	**NEW YORK AL**	**.228**	**34**	**79**	**6**	**1**	**9**	**0**
				Columbus (AAA)	.265	91	362	69	9	44	17

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY More and more in their decision-making, the Yankees are considering the impact of the luxury tax, which costs them an extra 40 cents for every dollar they spend on payroll. They liked free agent starter Ted Lilly, for example, but for them, his four-year, $40 million contract would have cost $56 million. At that price, the Yankees shied away and signed Japanese star Kei Igawa, whose posting fee ($26 million) was not subject to the tax.

MISSING PITCH When the Yankees signed Chien-Ming Wang out of Taiwan in 2000, Wang did not throw a sinker. When the Diamondbacks scouted the Yankees farm system in 2004, trying to find pieces they liked in a Randy Johnson trade, Wang had not quite perfected the pitch. But he was working on it with minor league coach Neil Allen and the Class AAA catcher, Sal Fasano, and now he is a master. Wang seems to induce ground balls at will, keeping his infielders alert and his pitch count low. "It's like hitting a shot put," Yankees pitching coach Ron Guidry says. "It's harder than most sinkers, and it's got late movement."

WE NEED SOME HELP If anyone needed symbolism to show the difference between the old-guard Yankees and the new breed, it was there in the stat sheet from the division series loss to Detroit. Derek Jeter and Jorge Posada both hit .500. The combined average of the rest of the team was .173.

HE BELONGS Melky Cabrera looked overmatched in a week-long trial in 2005, but he was so confident in his future that he had a red-and-blue Major League Baseball logo tattooed on his right shoulder blade. Cabrera showed that he belonged in '06, rescuing the Yankees after injuries to outfielders Gary Sheffield and Hideki Matsui. His consistency gave GM Brian Cashman the luxury of waiting for a Bobby Abreu trade to materialize instead of rushing into a deal and giving away top prospects.

THE FARM SYSTEM

2006 Top Draft Pick

The Yankees liked his pedigree as a sophomore star at USC in 2005. His middling college results last season (5–7, 3.90) caused him to fall to the Yankees with the 21st pick. But **Ian Kennedy** has sharp command, and the Yankees' army of minor league instructors will try to teach him to widen his repertoire to compensate for an average fastball. The scout who signed him, Jeff Patterson, has a strong track record: he also signed Phil Hughes as a late first-rounder in 2004.

Prospects

RHP Phil Hughes Best pitching prospect since Andy Pettitte and Mariano Rivera; should help later this year.

RHP Humberto Sanchez Big (6'6") and powerful (97 mph fastball), he must shake injuries.

RHP Tyler Clippard Sophisticated approach has led to steady improvement despite average stuff.

OF Jose Tabata Only 18, he's already a savvy contact hitter who is untouchable in trades.

RHP J. Brent Cox Solid makeup and filthy slider make former University of Texas closer a quality setup-man prospect.

Rich Abel

Tampa Bay Devil Rays

2007 Prediction: 5th

2006 Finish: 61–101
AL East

Astonishingly, no Devil Rays-drafted pitcher has ever won more than eight games in a season or 23 in a career wearing their uniform. Therein lies the crux of what ails this franchise — and what will ail it again in 2007. Even as a cache of young hitters matures, the pitching goes from bad to even worse thanks to player development whiffs and a payroll that annually loses ground relative to the competition. What began last year as a second honeymoon between fans and the new, progressive Rays management is now a young marriage already on the rocks. The organization showed no progress on the field, absorbed P.R. blows from the impetuous behavior of its brightest prospects and seemed paralyzed in the personnel markets.

Rotation Scott Kazmir, 23, is baseball's youngest staff ace. The past two years, he's a modest 20–17 — but for a team that otherwise has gone 108–179. He frequently takes no-hit stuff to the mound — especially now that his slider and change-up are almost as good as his fastball — but how often he'll get to the mound remains a concern. Kazmir's durability will cause unending anxiety; the All-Star made only three starts after July 23 courtesy of a balky shoulder. The rest of the rotation would be starters five through infinity on most good teams. James Shields' speed-changing and control are the recipe for a competent innings-eater. Casey Fossum, 18–33, 5.61 since 2004, had his shoulder cleaned out. Jae Seo went from 8–2 to 3–12; he has alternately teased and disillusioned. Throw a blanket over J.P. Howell, Tim Corcoran, Edwin Jackson and undoubtedly a host of as-yet unknowns for the rest of the starts. And don't let them out from under it.

Bullpen One need know only two things about the bullpen: (1) The Rays led in 121 games last year, but lost an AL-record 60 of them. (2) Nothing was done to improve it. As was the case throughout 2006, there is no clear-cut closer. Seth McClung owns the best raw materials for the job, but he's yet to harness his bull-in-a-china-shop personality or his high-90s fastball. The only other relievers with upside are Chad Orvella and Juan Salas, but neither have proven a thing. That, however, gives them an advantage over Shawn Camp, Dan Miceli, Ruddy Lugo, et al, who have proven their mediocrity. The return of Shinji Mori, a five-time All-Star in Japan who missed '06 rehabbing a torn labrum, could be a midseason bonus.

ROCCO BALDELLI
center field

Robert Leiter/MLB/Getty Images

Middle Infield This could be baseball's weakest middle infield. Only a return to form by second baseman Jorge Cantu, who set the team RBI record two years back, could begin to save it. In 2006, he was an out-making machine, and he's grounded into almost as many DPs (45) in his career as he has walks (54). Ben Zobrist was plucked from Houston's Double-A team (for Aubrey Huff) to man short. Though he has Ripkenesque size, he wields no power and, showing little of the patience that festooned his minor league resume, seems generally overmatched.

Corners Akinori Iwamura arrives from Japan as the team's lone impact addition. The 27-year-old told manager Joe Maddon he can play six positions. For now, he's penciled in at third, where perennial prospect/defensive butcher B.J. Upton finished up in 2006 after the team apparently

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

CF Rocco Baldelli
Led the team in HRs, RBIs after return from injury on June 7.

RF Delmon Young
Third OF of the half-century with 30-plus hits in first 20 games.

LF Carl Crawford
Double-digit doubles/triples/homers in three straight years.

1B Ty Wigginton
Tied the game or put the Rays ahead with 15 of his 24 homers.

3B Akinori Iwamura
Compiled career OPS of .885 in Japan, including .933 last season.

2B Jorge Cantu
Team MVP in '05 (28 HRs, 117 RBIs) who slumped to .699 OPS.

DH Jonny Gomes
Lowest AVG (.216) among players with 400 plate appearances.

C Dioner Navarro
Threw out 18-of-50 basestealers for Tampa Bay.

SS Ben Zobrist
Owns a .434 career OBP in minors.

BENCH

INF B.J. Upton
Has hit .296 with 150 steals, 177 errors in 479 games in minors.

INF Brendan Harris
Versatile .209 career hitter with fifth team in four years.

1B Greg Norton
Second among active players with 10 pinch-hit home runs.

OF Elijah Dukes
Compiled .889 OPS in Triple-A but was suspended several times.

C Shawn Riggans
Gunned down all three AL runners who tested him.

ROTATION

LHP Scott Kazmir
Became Rays' all-time strikeout leader at age 22.

RHP James Shields
Second-best SO/BB ratio (2.74) by a Rays starter with 100 IP.

LHP Casey Fossum
Rays went 14–11 (best of any starter) behind him.

RHP Jae Seo
Received only 2.9 runs-per-nine-innings of support.

RHP J.P. Howell
Broke Roger Clemens' strikeout record at Texas.

BULLPEN

RHP Seth McClung
Allowed 16.7 base runners per nine innings pitched.

RHP Ruddy Lugo
Topped all major league rookies with 85 relief innings pitched.

RHP Shawn Camp
Set club record with 75 games; tied record with seven relief Ws.

RHP Chad Orvella
Owns a 1.38 ERA in 98 minor league relief outings.

RHP Dan Miceli
Has been assigned to 32 different teams in 17-year pro career.

RHP Juan Salas
Began last season with 47.1 earned run-free frames in minors.

convinced him the dirt around shortstop was infested with a flesh-eating virus. The chirpy Iwamura, who won six Gold Gloves at the hot corner for Yakult, was a .300 hitter whose 35-homer average of the past three years is likely to be halved here. Upton is still just 22 — and still more of an athlete than baseball player. Journeyman Ty Wigginton might have been the team's 2006 MVP, playing five positions (albeit none of them with distinction) and leading the team in homers and ribbies. Past performance suggests his encore could be underwhelming, but he's the first baseman until proven otherwise.

Outfield Now we're talkin'. There isn't a team in the game that wouldn't go to war with an outfield of Delmon Young in right, Rocco Baldelli in center and Carl Crawford in left. Young, 21, might be the leading prospect in all of baseball and a legit five-tooler. All that can stop him is his overanxiousness (one walk in 30 games) and himself. Young's already been labeled a miscreant — flinging a bat at a minor league ump will have that effect — but Maddon said in September that he "handled himself as well as any rookie or any veteran that I've ever been around...he's won me over big time." Baldelli's march to golden boyism was on hold for a year and a half after knee and elbow rips, but by last August there was not a more complete center fielder anywhere. Crawford, too, is carving out greatness. Not since Rogers Hornsby has another player improved his HRs and average over five consecutive seasons (250-plus ABs). Yet his best traits are his speed, defense and gotta-be-the-best makeup.

Catching The Rays aren't yet sure what they have in Dioner Navarro; Andrew Friedman was higher on him than most GMs when he got him from the Dodgers (with whom he'd been passed by Russell Martin) last June. Though barely adequate at the plate or behind it so far, he's a switch-hitter with compact power — at least in B.P.

DH/Bench Only three players in history have hit more April homers than the 11 Jonny Gomes popped in 2006. But he was overweight, hurt his shoulder, hit .175 after May 17 and underwent surgery in September. When fit, he's a gamer and an energy guy capable of 30 jacks while splitting time between DH and first. Another long-term first base solution could be rookie Elijah Dukes, an outfielder by trade whose gifts compare favorably to Young's, but whose off-the-field "credentials" make him a walking time bomb. Greg Norton, yet another DH/1B type, is a professional hitter coming off a career-high 17 homers.

Management Compared to snooty Vince Naimoli and the regressive Chuck LaMar, the second-year owner/baseball operations team of Stuart Sternberg and Friedman is invigorating populists. Maddon, too, is a mold-breaker with his goofy glasses and quirky quotaliciousness. Fans, however, are still waiting for the brass' first headline signing, impact trade or developmental success story.

Final Analysis The Rays are perpetually building, but if wins aren't soon part of the equation, things could reach a critical mass of abject disinterest. "I'm not looking to win 75 to 80 games here," says Sternberg of his long-range strategy, "I'm looking to win 90, and looking to come in practically every season with the opportunity to win 90." That's fine, but 75 would look pretty good right now and, considering the pitching crisis, would be on the optimistic side of a projection.

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Carl Crawford
High-Dividend Hurler: Scott Kazmir
Buy Recommendation: Jonny Gomes
Sell Recommendation: Ty Wigginton
Medical (In)Securities: Scott Kazmir
IPO: OF Delmon Young
Futures Market: 3B Evan Longoria
Insider Tip: Opening Day infield won't finish with 40 homers.

STATLINE

Lowest 2006 WIN% in Quality Starts

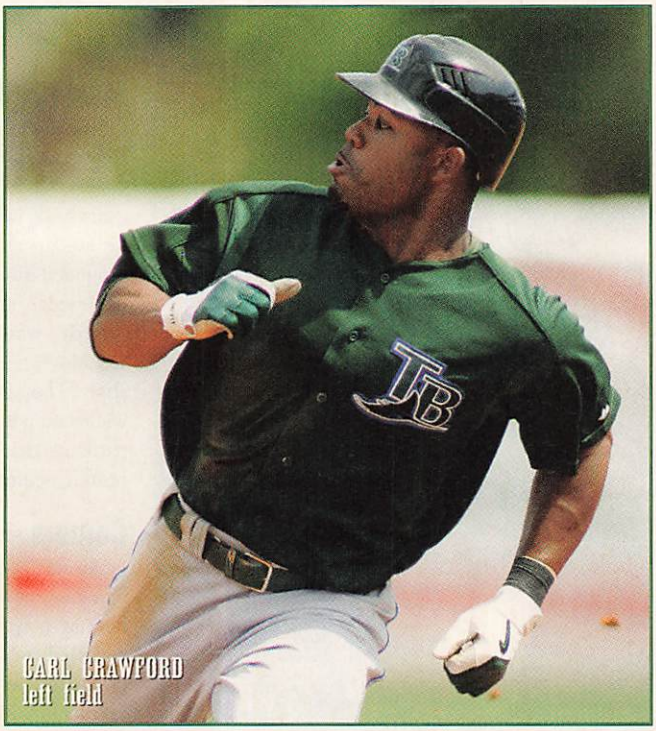
1. Devil Rays ..... .625
2. Rockies ..... .627
3. Pirates ..... .635
4. Mariners ..... .673
5. Royals ..... .688

STATISTICIAN

.218 2006 average with runners in scoring position by all except Carl Crawford and Rocco Baldelli.
.398 The franchise's all-time winning percentage — easily the worst of the 14 expansion teams.
3 Road games won by the Devil Rays after July 1.
5 Players who remained on the 2006 roster wire to wire.
8 Rays who hit double digits in homers last year — only the ninth team to do that.
10 Games lost on the contest's final pitch.
70 Joe Maddon's uniform number, the highest ever worn by a manager.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

With only one pitcher on the roster (Scott Kazmir) who has proven to be anything more than passable, someone — anyone — will need to overachieve. The most likely candidate is **James Shields** who, after making his major league debut last May 31, pitched more innings than any AL rookie. He's not a staff savior, but the Rays need him to be a staff saver who will provide 200 honest innings. Former catcher Toby Hall said of Shields, "He has one of the nastiest changeups in the league that I ever caught or faced. Johan Santana is the other one."


CARL CRAWFORD
left field

Crawford: Matt May/US Presswire; Longoria: David Stoner

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

YOU CAN CALL ME RAYS Rumors of an official name change — probably by 2008 — persist. The team gave a clue to what it had in mind last July when it unveiled a 10,000-gallon aquarium stocked with more than two dozen cownose — not devil — rays. There can be only two inferences: that the "Devil" will be dropped from the name, or that they'll be dubbed the Cownose Rays. One couldn't have been sure under the old regime, but our guess is the former option.

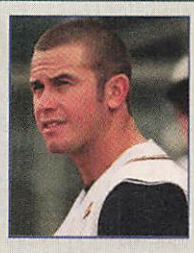
TRIPLE TROUBLE Since the Rays came into being in 1998, only two teams have scored fewer runs and just three have allowed more runs. Not surprisingly, they are the only squad to have won less than 40 percent of its games in that span.

THE PRINCESS DIARIES Ruddy Lugo's rookie year may have been unremarkable from a performance standpoint, but as the junior member of the relief staff, he served a memorable shift as "candy boy." In a hazing stunt, he was compelled to carry a stash of goodies — such as candy, sunflower seeds, pain relief pills, dip, chewing tobacco and handwarmers — to and from the bullpen each day. In a pink backpack. With drawings of Cinderella-like characters on it. One of whom is saying, "I'm such a princess."

THE SPEED-POWER MYTH So how did a team that was only the 11th in history to combine for at least 190 homers and 130 steals manage to score fewer runs than any other in baseball? By posting the fifth-lowest on-base percentage (.314) in the AL of the past decade. By batting 30 points below the league average with runners in scoring position. And by having the lower third of the order hit .221.

TOMORROWLAND? Seeking to broaden its fan base (and, say some, scout out a potential relocation locale), the team will play a three-game series against the Rangers on May 15-17 at Disney's Wide World of Sports complex near Orlando. The facility can be temporarily expanded to only about 13,000 seats, but in six games at The Trop in 2006, the average TB-Texas draw was 8,241.

THE FARM SYSTEM



2006 Top Draft Pick

Though the organization is starved for pitching, the Rays couldn't pass up third baseman **Evan Longoria** at No. 3 overall. Longoria's debut — .315-18-58 for three teams, concluding in Double-A — was arguably the best by any hitter in the draft. The Long Beach State product swings a Ryan Zimmerman-like bat and could be similarly tracked to the majors, moving Akinori Iwamura to second base before the year is out.

Prospects

SS Reid Brignac Carolina League MVP led all minors shortstops with 99 RBIs and 100 runs.

RHP Jeff Niemann At 6'9" and an apple crisp shy of 280, finally-healthy '04 first-rounder held AA hitters to .202 AVG.

RHP Wade Davis Big power pitcher; has ranked first, then second in his league in SOs in his full seasons.

LHP Jake McGee Broke out as Midwest League punchout leader with 171 (and only seven HRs allowed) in 134 innings.

RHP Andy Sonnanstine Finesse guy, but nearly won system's pitching triple crown a second straight year.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Joe Maddon **COACHES:** Bill Evers, Tom Foley, Steve Henderson, George Hendrick, Jim Hickey, Bobby Ramos, Don Zimmer

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
22	Shawn Camp	R-R	11/18/75	**TAMPA BAY**	**7-4**	**4.68**	**75**	**4**	**75.0**	**53**
66	Marcos Carvajal	R-R	8/19/84	Montgomery (AA)	2-2	3.86	39	0	72.1	69
56	Tim Corcoran	R-R	4/15/78	**TAMPA BAY**	**5-9**	**4.38**	**21**	**0**	**90.1**	**59**
				Durham (AAA)	5-1	1.91	19	1	37.2	32
15	Casey Fossum	L-L	1/6/78	**TAMPA BAY**	**6-6**	**5.33**	**25**	**0**	**130.0**	**88**
49	Jason Hammel	R-R	9/2/82	**TAMPA BAY**	**6-6**	**5.33**	**25**	**0**	**130.0**	**88**
				Durham (AAA)	5-9	4.23	24	0	127.2	117
39	J.P. Howell	L-L	4/25/83	**TAMPA BAY**	**1-3**	**5.10**	**8**	**0**	**42.1**	**33**
				Durham (AAA)	5-3	2.62	10	0	55.0	49
				Omaha (AAA)	3-2	4.75	8	0	36.0	33
36	Edwin Jackson	R-R	9/9/83	**TAMPA BAY**	**0-0**	**5.45**	**23**	**0**	**36.1**	**27**
				Durham (AAA)	3-7	5.55	22	5	73.0	66
19	Scott Kazmir	L-L	1/24/84	**TAMPA BAY**	**10-8**	**3.24**	**24**	**0**	**144.2**	**163**
45	Ruddy Lugo	R-R	5/22/80	**TAMPA BAY**	**2-4**	**3.81**	**64**	**0**	**85.0**	**48**
				Visalia (A)	0-0	6.75	4	1	4.0	5
37	Seth McClung	R-R	2/7/81	**TAMPA BAY**	**6-12**	**6.29**	**39**	**6**	**103.0**	**59**
				Durham (AAA)	1-0	2.20	14	5	16.1	26
33	Dan Miceli	R-R	9/9/70	**TAMPA BAY**	**1-2**	**3.94**	**33**	**4**	**32.0**	**18**
				Montgomery (AA)	0-0	0.00	4	1	5.0	5
11	Shinji Mori	L-R	9/12/74	Did Not Pitch						
34	Jeff Niemann	R-R	2/28/83	Montgomery (AA)	5-5	2.68	14	0	77.1	84
54	Chad Orvella	R-R	10/1/80	**TAMPA BAY**	**1-5**	**7.40**	**22**	**0**	**24.1**	**17**
				Durham (AAA)	4-0	1.86	27	1	38.2	55
	Jeff Ridgway	R-L	8/17/80	Durham (AAA)	1-4	3.03	34	0	38.2	38
				Montgomery (AA)	1-0	2.33	16	2	19.1	29
53	Juan Salas	R-R	11/7/78	**TAMPA BAY**	**0-0**	**5.40**	**8**	**0**	**10.0**	**8**
				Durham (AAA)	1-1	1.57	27	3	28.2	33
				Montgomery (AA)	3-0	0.00	23	14	34.2	52
57	Chris Seddon	L-L	10/13/83	Durham (AAA)	9-9	4.72	28	0	154.1	108
40	Jae Seo	R-R	5/24/77	**TAMPA BAY**	**1-8**	**5.00**	**17**	**0**	**90.0**	**39**
				LOS ANGELES NL	**2-4**	**5.78**	**19**	**0**	**67.0**	**49**
50	James Shields	R-R	12/20/81	**TAMPA BAY**	**6-8**	**4.84**	**21**	**0**	**124.2**	**104**
				Durham (AAA)	3-2	2.64	10	0	61.1	64
72	Brian Stokes	R-R	9/7/79	**TAMPA BAY**	**1-0**	**4.88**	**5**	**0**	**24.0**	**15**
				Durham (AAA)	7-7	4.11	29	0	133.2	103
46	Jon Switzer	L-L	8/13/79	**TAMPA BAY**	**2-2**	**4.54**	**40**	**0**	**33.2**	**18**
				Durham (AAA)	3-0	0.87	26	3	31.0	29
58	Mitch Talbot	R-R	10/17/83	Montgomery (AA)	4-3	1.90	10	0	66.1	59
				Corpus Christi (AA)	6-4	3.39	18	1	90.1	96

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
30	Dioner Navarro	S-R	2/9/84	**TAMPA BAY**	**.244**	**56**	**193**	**23**	**4**	**20**	**1**
				LOS ANGELES NL	**.280**	**25**	**75**	**5**	**2**	**8**	**1**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	.175	11	40	3	0	2	1
8	Josh Paul	R-R	5/19/75	**TAMPA BAY**	**.240**	**58**	**146**	**15**	**1**	**8**	**1**
65	Shawn Riggans	R-R	7/25/80	**TAMPA BAY**	**.172**	**10**	**29**	**3**	**0**	**1**	**0**
				Durham (AAA)	.293	115	417	43	11	54	2

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
64	Wes Bankston	R-R	11/23/83	Durham (AAA)	.297	52	195	22	5	29	0
				Montgomery (AA)	.263	45	167	20	4	19	4
3	Jorge Cantu	R-R	1/30/82	**TAMPA BAY**	**.249**	**107**	**413**	**40**	**14**	**62**	**1**
				Montgomery (AA)	.194	8	31	4	2	8	0
50	Joel Guzman	R-R	11/24/84	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**.211**	**8**	**19**	**2**	**0**	**3**	**0**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	.297	85	317	44	11	55	9
				Durham (AAA)	.193	25	88	7	4	9	0
	Brendan Harris	R-R	8/26/80	**WASHINGTON**	**.250**	**17**	**32**	**3**	**0**	**2**	**0**
				CINCINNATI	**.200**	**8**	**10**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**0**
1	Akinori Iwamura	L-R	2/9/79	Yakult (Japan)	.311	145	546	84	32	77	8
60	Elliot Johnson	S-R	3/9/84	Montgomery (AA)	.281	122	494	69	15	50	20
14	Greg Norton	S-R	7/6/72	**TAMPA BAY**	**.296**	**98**	**294**	**47**	**17**	**45**	**1**
				Durham (AAA)	.111	3	9	0	0	1	0
2	B.J. Upton	R-R	8/21/84	**TAMPA BAY**	**.246**	**50**	**175**	**20**	**1**	**10**	**11**
				Durham (AAA)	.269	106	398	72	8	41	46
21	Ty Wigginton	R-R	10/11/77	**TAMPA BAY**	**.275**	**122**	**444**	**55**	**24**	**79**	**4**
				Durham (AAA)	.375	2	8	2	1	2	0
18	Ben Zobrist	S-R	5/26/81	**TAMPA BAY**	**.224**	**52**	**183**	**10**	**2**	**18**	**2**
				Durham (AAA)	.304	18	69	12	0	6	4
				Corpus Christi (AA)	.327	83	315	57	3	30	9

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
5	Rocco Baldelli	R-R	9/25/81	**TAMPA BAY**	**.302**	**92**	**364**	**59**	**16**	**57**	**10**
				Durham (AAA)	.404	12	47	7	0	4	0
13	Carl Crawford	L-L	8/5/81	**TAMPA BAY**	**.305**	**151**	**600**	**89**	**18**	**77**	**58**
28	Elijah Dukes	S-R	6/26/84	Durham (AAA)	.293	80	283	58	10	50	9
31	Jonny Gomes	R-R	11/22/80	**TAMPA BAY**	**.216**	**117**	**385**	**53**	**20**	**59**	**1**
26	Delmon Young	R-R	9/14/85	**TAMPA BAY**	**.317**	**30**	**126**	**16**	**3**	**10**	**2**
				Durham (AAA)	.316	86	342	50	8	59	22

Toronto Blue Jays

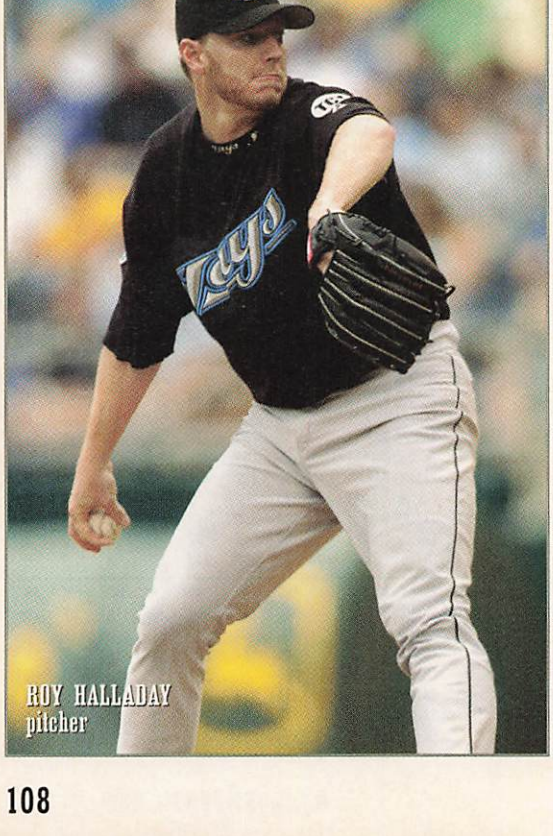
2007 Prediction: 3rd

2006 Finish: 87–75

AL East

The Blue Jays' payroll has more than doubled since 2005, but it's a fact of life in the American League East Division that the team is really no closer to the postseason than it was two years ago. Finishing ahead of the Boston Red Sox in 2006 was nice, but even securing a large part of the team's future by signing Vernon Wells to a seven-year, $126-million contract extension in December hasn't guaranteed a playoff spot.

Rotation For all the offseason machinations, the Blue Jays' postseason aspirations ride on the right arm of Roy Halladay, who hasn't put together a healthy season since winning the AL Cy Young Award in 2003 but still finished fourth in the league in innings pitched in 2006 despite forearm tightness. Halladay pitched at least six innings in 28 of his 32 starts, leaving two others with injury. A.J. Burnett (elbow scar tissue) and Gustavo Chacin (forearm soreness, elbow strain) each made two separate trips to the disabled list but finished strongly in September. Burnett's injury is chronic and might flare up again at any time; he'll have to pitch with the pain. John Thomson was signed to a bargain basement contract and says his sore shoulder and blister worries are behind him, but he'll have competion from Shaun Marcum, Dustin McGowan and Josh Towers for the final two spots.


ROY HALLADAY
pitcher

Bullpen Closer B.J. Ryan was a horse in the first year of a five-year, $47-million contract, finishing third in the AL in saves with an earned run average that was second in the league and announcing his arrival by starting the year 11-for-11 in save opportunities without allowing a run in April. He led the majors with 13 saves of more than an inning. Middle reliever Justin Speier left as a free agent, but hopes are high that 24-year-old Brandon League has figured it out. He and Jason Frasor, who rebounded from a shock demotion to the minors, will be called upon to assume the load carried by Speier. Lefties Scott Downs and Brian Tallet are rubber-armed types.

Middle Infield The Blue Jays have had 11 different shortstops start games since the beginning of the 2002 season. Journeyman Royce Clayton will become the 12th, after signing a one-year contract that will allow Aaron Hill to settle in at second base. Clayton is durable, but he's not much of a factor offensively. Hill, who started 46 games at shortstop and 106 at second base, had a strong finish, hitting four of his six homers in September and slugging .484, and he is set for a big year. He is a steady defender who has a mature approach to the game at the plate and covers more ground than people give him credit for. Prior to Clayton's arrival, the Blue Jays went back and forth during the winter over whether they should shift Hill to shortstop from second base. "We'd like to leave Aaron at second base, because we believe he can become a Gold Glover there," says general manager J.P. Ricciardi.

Corners Troy Glaus and Lyle Overbay are surprisingly nimble for big men. Glaus, who played eight games at shortstop in an emergency role, battled knee soreness for much of the year and turned 37 double plays as a third baseman, breaking a club record. He was sixth in the AL in homers, ninth in runs scored and 10th in walks. Overbay hit .300 or better in every month but April and was fourth in the AL with 46 doubles. Glaus and Overbay combined to hit 42 of their 60 homers at the Rogers Centre.

Outfield Wells has won the last three Gold Gloves in center field, and with Reed Johnson in left and Alex Rios in right, the Blue Jays might have the best outfield defense in the AL. Rookie Adam Lind's left-handed bat is knocking on the door for an everyday role, but he's a liability in the field. Johnson has become an everyday player and hit .322 in 435 at-bats as a lead-off hitter. Wells became the fourth player in franchise history to hit 20 or more homers in five or more seasons. Rios' development lengthened the Blue Jays' batting order as the right-handed batter achieved career highs in homers and runs batted in. He hit .305 against righthanders to balance out a .295 average against lefthanders, but he figured prominently in trade rumors as the team tried to address its pitching needs.

Catching Bengie Molina was a mess defensively, and his 11 passed balls were one reason he was allowed to walk as a free agent. Gregg

STATLINE

Most Career Strikeouts per 9 IP by AL LHP

1.	**B.J. Ryan**	**10.96**
2.	Randy Johnson	10.09
3.	Johan Santana	9.47
4.	Sam McDowell	9.06
5.	Arthur Rhodes	8.81

(minimum 450 IP)

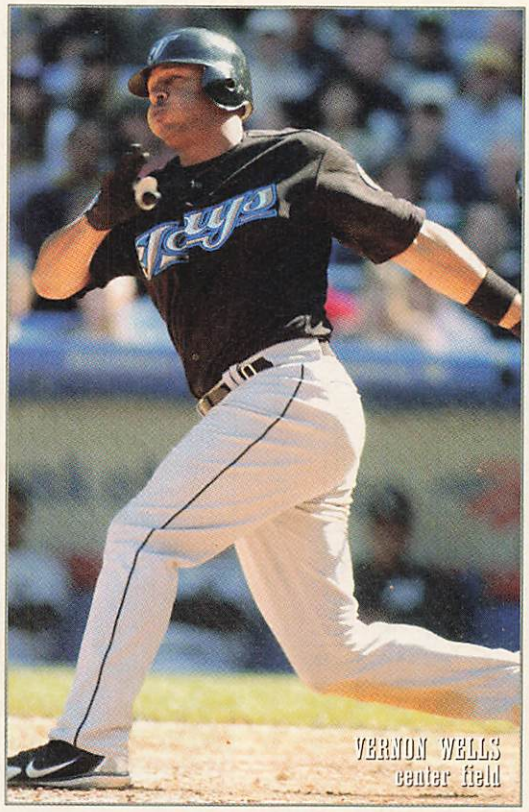
Halladay: John Williamson/MBL/Getty Images; Wells: Steve Moore

Zaun re-signed with the team only after a deal with Rod Barajas fell through, and while he set career highs in homers and slugging percentage at the age of 35, and is a switch-hitter in a righty-heavy lineup, his best asset is his knowledge of the team's pitching staff.

DH/Bench Free agent designated hitter Frank Thomas said he envisions himself playing until he's 42. He missed 13 games on the DL with a quadriceps strain but also appeared in 79 consecutive games from June 30-Sept. 26, the most consecutive games he's played since an 89-game stretch in 2000. If healthy, he'll hit a ton in this lineup and in a hitter-friendly park. Matt Stairs, a native of New Brunswick, gives the Blue Jays a lefty bat of some authority to spell Thomas and come off the bench late in the game. Jason Smith is a lefty hitter who has played all four infield spots in the majors. John McDonald is a cheap, one-trick pony as a defensive shortstop.

Management Manager John Gibbons' former minor league roommate, Ricciardi, still has his back, but Gibbons cost himself an extension with much-publicized run-ins with Shea Hillenbrand and Ted Lilly. Gibbons needs a strong start to the season. Ricciardi has the full confidence of ownership — as demonstrated by the dramatic increase in payroll. And while much has been made of his 'Moneyball' ties, Ricciardi has never been a hard-and-fast disciple of the philosophy.

Final Analysis The loss of Lilly to free agency left the Blue Jays scrambling. There is precious little in the way of impact depth in the minor leagues, and for the Blue Jays to sniff the playoffs in 2007, either the Yankees or Red Sox will need to stumble in a big way. But interest in the team is on the rise as are ticket sales, and all the club's cornerstone players are locked up through next year. Gone are the days of the $75 million (Canadian) operating loss.


VERNON WELLS
center field

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Vernon Wells
High-Dividend Hurler: Roy Halladay
Buy Recommendation: Aaron Hill
Sell Recommendation: Reed Johnson
Medical (In)Securities: A.J. Burnett
IPO: OF Adam Lind
Futures Market: OF Travis Snyder
Insider Tip: Pounce when others forget Gustavo Chacin's 13 '05 wins.

STATISTICIAN

- **0** Number of losing home stands in 2006.
- **3** Number of winning road trips in 2006.
- **5** Number of major league pitchers to have been the first in their league to 15 wins in more than one season: Sandy Koufax, Roger Clemens, Steve Carlton, Joaquin Andujar and Roy Halladay (2003, 2006).
- **5** Since 1920, the number of players with more 100-RBI seasons than Frank Thomas' 11 (Jimmie Foxx, 13; Lou Gehrig, 13; Barry Bonds, 12; Babe Ruth, 12; Al Simmons, 12).

DIFFERENCE MAKER

The pressure will be on 26-year-old Venezuelan **Gustavo Chacin**, limited to 17 starts in 2006 after his 34-game, 13-win rookie season. He is the wild card for a team that lost Ted Lilly to free agency, after a year in which he lived dangerously, going 6–1 at home despite a 6.06 ERA and allowing seven homers to lefty hitters in a campaign dotted with elbow and forearm soreness. Chacin has been pitching at a high level since he was 16 years old and is a student of the game, so there is every chance he will figure out what went wrong in 2006. Whether he can regain the one to two miles per hour in velocity that he consistently lost is another matter.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

LF Reed Johnson
10th in AL in batting average and 11th in on-base percentage.

RF Alex Rios
OBP after return from illness was 86 points lower than in first half.

1B Lyle Overbay
Increased homer totals in each of his four major league seasons.

DH Frank Thomas
4.36 pitches per plate appearance second-highest of his career.

3B Troy Glaus
Coming off first 100-RBI season since 2002.

CF Vernon Wells
11 of 32 homers were against the Red Sox or Yankees.

C Gregg Zaun
.364 average, 15 runners driven in from third in 20 chances.

2B Aaron Hill
.361 average in July was best in AL.

SS Royce Clayton
One of the most durable players in the game.

BENCH

C Jason Phillips
Limited to 25 games in majors after 249 in previous two seasons.

SS John McDonald
Tied for the team-high with 14 errors.

INF Jason Smith
Rule 5 pick will likely stick with team.

LF Adam Lind
Had eight multiple-hit games in 16 starts after being called up.

OF Matt Stairs
12 of 13 homers came off right-handed pitching.

ROTATION

RHP Roy Halladay
Team is 23–4 in last two seasons in Halladay starts after a loss.

RHP A.J. Burnett
2.59 walks per nine IP improvement over career mark of 3.87.

LHP Gustavo Chacin
6.3 runs per game was highest run-support on staff.

RHP John Thomson
Pitched only 80.1 innings in injury-marred 2006 season.

RHP Shaun Marcum
Four separate stints with team in 2006.

BULLPEN

LHP B.J. Ryan
Led Majors with 13 saves of more than an inning.

RHP Brandon League
Post Aug. 3, allowed runs in just two of 17 outings.

RHP Jason Frasor
2.65 ERA in 18 appearances in August and September.

RHP Dustin McGowan
7.85 ERA in 13 games as reliever.

LHP Scott Downs
Second in AL in batting average with runners on base (.134).

LHP Brian Tallet
Gave up seven earned runs in his last 24 outings.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: John Gibbons **COACHES:** Ernie Whitt, Marty Pevey, Brian Butterfield, Brad Arnsberg, Bruce Walton, Mickey Brantley

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
49	Jeremy Accardo	R-R	12/8/81	**TORONTO**	**1-1**	**5.97**	**27**	**0**	**28.2**	**14**
				SAN FRANCISCO	**1-3**	**4.91**	**38**	**3**	**40.1**	**40**
44	Josh Banks	R-R	7/18/82	Syracuse (AAA)	10-11	5.22	29	0	170.2	126
34	A.J. Burnett	R-R	1/3/77	**TORONTO**	**10-8**	**3.98**	**21**	**0**	**135.2**	**118**
				Syracuse (AAA)	1-0	0.00	1	0	5.0	7
				New Hampshire (AA)	1-0	1.50	1	0	6.0	9
39	Gustavo Chacin	L-L	12/4/80	**TORONTO**	**9-4**	**5.05**	**17**	**0**	**87.1**	**47**
				Syracuse (AAA)	0-3	10.13	4	0	10.2	11
				Dunedin (A)	0-0	9.64	1	0	4.2	5
37	Scott Downs	L-L	3/17/76	**TORONTO**	**6-2**	**4.09**	**59**	**1**	**77.0**	**61**
54	Jason Frasor	R-R	8/9/77	**TORONTO**	**3-2**	**4.32**	**51**	**0**	**50.0**	**51**
				Syracuse (AAA)	3-1	3.98	18	1	20.1	33
32	Roy Halladay	R-R	5/14/77	**TORONTO**	**16-5**	**3.19**	**32**	**0**	**220.0**	**132**
19	Ryan Houston	R-R	9/22/79	Syracuse (AAA)	2-4	3.68	46	2	66.0	68
				New Hampshire (AA)	1-0	2.70	5	0	6.2	11
44	Casey Janssen	R-R	9/17/81	**TORONTO**	**6-10**	**5.07**	**19**	**0**	**94.0**	**44**
				Syracuse (AAA)	1-5	4.85	9	0	42.2	32
22	Brandon League	R-R	3/16/83	**TORONTO**	**1-2**	**2.53**	**33**	**1**	**42.2**	**29**
				Syracuse (AAA)	3-2	2.14	31	8	54.2	43
	Jean Machi	R-R	2/1/82	Montgomery (AA)	6-1	2.64	49	16	71.2	68
28	Shaun Marcum	R-R	12/14/81	**TORONTO**	**3-4**	**5.06**	**21**	**0**	**78.1**	**65**
				Syracuse (AAA)	4-0	3.42	18	0	52.2	60
40	Dustin McGowan	R-R	3/24/82	**TORONTO**	**1-2**	**7.24**	**16**	**0**	**27.1**	**22**
				Syracuse (AAA)	3-5	4.39	23	1	84.0	86
26	Ismael Ramirez	R-R	3/3/81	Syracuse (AAA)	2-0	4.50	3	0	18.0	8
				New Hampshire (AA)	7-5	2.08	20	0	108.1	75
50	Davis Romero	L-L	3/30/83	**TORONTO**	**1-0**	**3.86**	**7**	**0**	**16.1**	**10**
				Syracuse (AAA)	4-4	3.83	18	1	44.2	50
				New Hampshire (AA)	6-7	3.43	14	0	84.0	74
	Matt Roney	R-R	1/10/80	**OAKLAND**	**0-1**	**4.50**	**3**	**0**	**4.0**	**0**
				Sacramento (AAA)	4-3	2.95	47	6	58.0	65
36	Francisco Rosario	R-R	9/28/80	**TORONTO**	**1-2**	**6.65**	**17**	**0**	**23.0**	**21**
				Syracuse (AAA)	0-3	2.79	14	1	42.0	50
52	B.J. Ryan	L-L	12/28/75	**TORONTO**	**2-2**	**1.37**	**65**	**38**	**72.1**	**86**
56	Brian Tallet	L-L	9/21/77	**TORONTO**	**3-0**	**3.81**	**44**	**0**	**54.1**	**37**
				Syracuse (AAA)	1-2	5.68	20	3	25.1	21
48	Ty Taubenheim	R-R	11/17/82	**TORONTO**	**1-5**	**4.89**	**12**	**0**	**35.0**	**26**
				Syracuse (AAA)	2-4	2.85	18	0	75.2	48
	John Thomson	R-R	10/1/73	**ATLANTA**	**2-7**	**4.82**	**18**	**0**	**80.1**	**46**
				Mississippi (AA)	0-0	9.00	1	0	1.0	1
				Rome (A)	0-1	10.80	1	0	1.2	0
	Tracy Thorpe	R-R	12/15/80	New Hampshire (AA)	3-1	2.91	54	18	55.2	62

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
	Robinzon Diaz	R-R	9/19/83	Dunedin (A)	.306	104	418	59	3	44	8
47	Jason Phillips	R-R	9/27/76	**TORONTO**	**.250**	**25**	**48**	**4**	**0**	**6**	**0**
				Syracuse (AAA)	.273	70	249	31	4	36	1
9	Gregg Zaun	S-R	4/14/71	**TORONTO**	**.272**	**99**	**290**	**39**	**12**	**40**	**0**
				Dunedin (A)	.000	1	4	0	0	0	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
8	Russ Adams	L-R	8/30/80	**TORONTO**	**.219**	**90**	**251**	**31**	**3**	**28**	**1**
				Syracuse (AAA)	.311	42	161	21	0	15	3
	Royce Clayton	R-R	1/2/70	**WASHINGTON**	**.269**	**87**	**305**	**36**	**0**	**27**	**8**
				CINCINNATI	**.235**	**50**	**149**	**13**	**2**	**13**	**6**
25	Troy Glaus	R-R	8/3/76	**TORONTO**	**.252**	**153**	**540**	**105**	**38**	**104**	**3**
23	John Hattig	S-R	2/27/80	**TORONTO**	**.333**	**13**	**24**	**2**	**0**	**3**	**0**
				Syracuse (AAA)	.276	103	373	48	4	36	0
2	Aaron Hill	R-R	3/21/82	**TORONTO**	**.291**	**155**	**546**	**70**	**6**	**50**	**5**
6	John McDonald	R-R	9/24/74	**TORONTO**	**.223**	**104**	**260**	**35**	**3**	**23**	**7**
	Lyle Overbay	L-L	1/28/77	**TORONTO**	**.312**	**157**	**581**	**82**	**22**	**92**	**5**
4	Ryan Roberts	R-R	9/19/80	**TORONTO**	**.077**	**9**	**13**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**0**
				Syracuse (AAA)	.273	98	362	44	10	49	5
20	Sergio Santos	R-R	7/4/83	Syracuse (AAA)	.214	128	481	48	5	38	1
	Jason Smith	L-R	7/24/77	**COLORADO**	**.263**	**49**	**99**	**9**	**5**	**13**	**3**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	.291	41	141	26	4	23	3
35	Frank Thomas	R-R	5/27/68	**OAKLAND**	**.270**	**137**	**466**	**77**	**39**	**114**	**0**

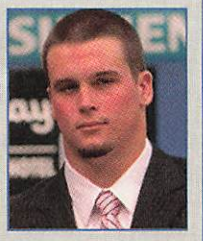
No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
3	Reed Johnson	R-R	12/8/76	**TORONTO**	**.319**	**134**	**461**	**86**	**12**	**49**	**8**
26	Adam Lind	L-L	7/17/83	**TORONTO**	**.367**	**18**	**60**	**8**	**2**	**8**	**0**
				Syracuse (AAA)	.394	34	109	20	5	18	1
				New Hampshire (AA)	.310	91	348	43	19	71	2
15	Alex Rios	R-R	2/18/81	**TORONTO**	**.302**	**128**	**450**	**68**	**17**	**82**	**15**
				Syracuse (AAA)	.300	3	10	0	0	1	0
	Matt Stairs	L-R	2/27/68	**DETROIT**	**.244**	**14**	**41**	**5**	**2**	**8**	**0**
				KANSAS CITY	**.261**	**77**	**226**	**31**	**8**	**32**	**0**
				TEXAS	**.210**	**26**	**81**	**6**	**3**	**11**	**0**
10	Vernon Wells	R-R	12/8/78	**TORONTO**	**.303**	**154**	**611**	**91**	**32**	**106**	**17**

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

DESIGNATED PRODUCTION Hard to imagine considering their growing reputation as a strong offensive team — particularly at home — but the Blue Jays have had difficulty in recent years mustering much out of the DH position. Enter Frank Thomas, who signed an $18.12 million contract with a vesting option. "This gives us a chance to define the DH position in our lineup," said GM J.P. Ricciardi. With good reason: In 2006, the Blue Jays used 14 different DHs, with seven of them getting double-digit starts at the position, led by Shea Hillenbrand (43). The position netted a grand total of 16 homers — tied with the Baltimore Orioles for second-fewest in the AL — and the Blue Jays were 12th in runs scored by their DHs. The 14 players managed just 68 extra-base hits. The Blue Jays have only had one DH hit 30 homers or drive in 100 runs. That was Brad Fullmer, who had 32 homers and 104 RBIs in 2000.

BIG DRAW The Blue Jays are not yet ready to start pulling in four million fans annually once again, but they have taken steps toward stemming an attendance slide. The club drew 2,454,283 in 2006, representing the fourth consecutive year in which paid attendance has increased. The Blue Jays had 35 crowds of 30,000 or more, reaching that plateau in each of their last nine games. Ticket sales leading up to Christmas were brisk. Team owner Ted Rogers is in the final year of a $210-million payroll commitment. The Blue Jays figure to be operating under a $95 million payroll in 2007, but unlike previous years the team did not reveal its payroll during the winter. Rogers, who purchased the SkyDome before the 2005 season and renamed it the Rogers Centre, has also been linked with a rumored bid to bring an NFL franchise to Toronto, in partnership with Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, owners of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Raptors and the Air Canada Centre.

THE FARM SYSTEM



Rob Cuni

2006 Top Draft Pick

Despite missing the last two weeks of the Appalachian League season with a sore wrist, outfielder **Travis Snider**, the first high school player selected first overall by the organization since Miguel Negron (2000) was named MVP in the league, hitting .325 with 11 home runs and 41 runs batted in. A product of Jackson High in Mill Creek, Wash., Snider was the 14th choice overall and had 18 multi-hit games, hitting in 16 of 18 games at one point. He won't be rushed through the system.

Prospects

OF Adam Lind MVP of the AA Eastern League and combined to hit .330 with 24 homers and 89 RBIs at AA and AAA.

LHP Ricky Romero Held Double-A batters to .198 average in Aug. after being shelled for 16 ER in 15 IP in first three starts.

RHP Francisco Rosario Owns the best fastball in the Blue Jays' system; he will start the year at AAA and be on call.

C Curtis Thigpen Had 25 multi-hit games at AA New Hampshire before hitting .245 at AAA Syracuse.

LHP Davis Romero A skinny, ground-ball pitcher, Romero could sneak on to the roster some time this season. Relies on his off-speed pitches and is considered to be a smart pitcher.

Chicago White Sox

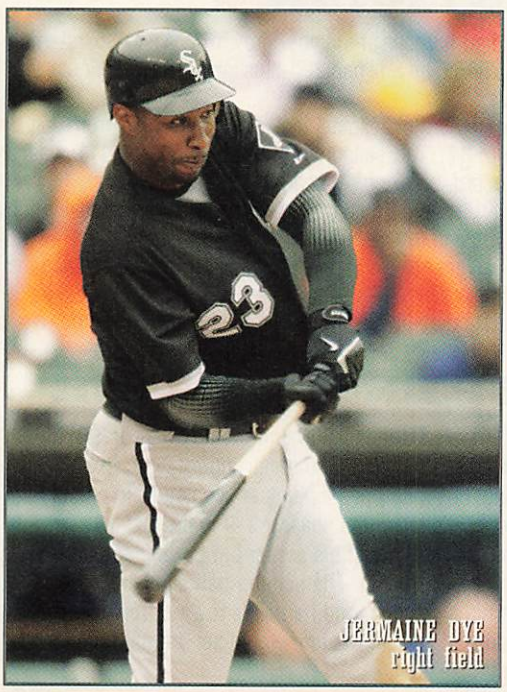
2007 Prediction: **1st**

2006 Finish: 90–72
AL Central

One year removed from their World Series success, the White Sox could be running out of time to show they're not a one-hit wonder. They're coming off their first back-to-back 90-win seasons since they had three in a row from 1963-65 but must improve to make the playoffs out of baseball's deepest division. The key is to get better results from a pitching staff that underachieved a year ago, when the staff ERA jumped from 3.61 to 4.61. The pieces are in place to win, so look for health and hunger to determine if the Sox retake the Central.

Rotation This is a stable group of starters, but everyone has something to prove, especially if they want to stick around. Jose Contreras is the only veteran starter signed beyond 2008, and the Sox aren't optimistic about extending the others given the inflated pitching market. Mark Buehrle, the staff's leader in previous seasons, is the biggest wild card after his ERA jumped from 3.12 to 4.99. Contreras, Jon Garland and Javier Vazquez all should be situated to have solid seasons. Garland, the baby of the bunch at 27, could be ready to become the ace after going 13–1 in one stretch a year ago. The fifth starter's job is wide open after Brandon McCarthy, the starter in waiting, was traded to Texas for three pitching prospects, including highly regarded lefty John Danks. He's likely to start the season at Triple-A, leaving knuckleballer Charlie Haeger, lefty Heath Phillips and righthanders Gavin Floyd and Lance Broadway to compete for one vacancy. Floyd, acquired from Philadelphia in the Freddy Garcia trade, is a project who could benefit from a change of scenery.

Bullpen Power is the word for this group. Bobby Jenks, Mike MacDougal and Matt Thornton could be the second coming of the Nasty Boys if they are at the top of their games, and newcomers David Aardsma, Nick Masset and Andrew Sisco are also available to provide some heat. Jenks got into Ozzie Guillen's doghouse by reporting overweight last year but was effective nevertheless and appears on his way to developing into an elite closer. MacDougal, who has more career saves than Jenks, is likewise positioned to become a top setup man. Establishing roles and consistency figures to be a challenge as none of these guys were around in the first half of 2005, the World Series season. The guys who keyed that group — Cliff Politte, Neal Cotts, Dustin Hermanson and Luis Vizcaino — are all gone.



Tom Pidgeon/Getty Images

Middle Infield Shortstop Juan Uribe hasn't shown much maturity at the plate or off the field, which makes it tough to know if he'll provide adequate play. He's an unconventional but solid fielder with a strong arm, but he frustrates coach Greg Walker with his regression as a hitter. He flails away, improvising mechanically while taking maximum-effort swings and rarely forcing pitchers to come to him. Second baseman Tadahito Iguchi offers counter-balance, as he is a bat-control type hitter with emerging power. Iguchi is a very solid fielder capable of an All-Star season.

Corners For years, Joe Crede has been the White Sox's best ballplayer. He's a Gold Glove-caliber fielder, with range, soft hands and an accurate arm. His steady improvement as a hitter has made him one of the best third basemen in the majors.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

LF Scott Podsednik
Streaky player whose game depends on health of his legs.

2B Tadahito Iguchi
Consistent hitter and solid fielder; could get a look at leadoff.

DH Jim Thome
30 of his 42 homers in 2006 were in the first half.

RF Jermaine Dye
He's increased HRs and RBIs three years in a row.

1B Paul Konerko
One-dimensional but an incredibly consistent run-producer.

C A.J. Pierzynski
Doesn't like to walk or sit, but will yield starts to Toby Hall.

3B Joe Crede
Won the Silver Slugger; should have won the Gold Glove.

CF Brian Anderson
Will receive a serious challenge from Ryan Sweeney.

SS Juan Uribe
Had more HRs (21) than walks (13) as he compiled a .257 OBP.

BENCH

INF Alex Cintron
Provides an option if the Sox run out of patience with Uribe.

OF Rob Mackowiak
At-bats cut almost in half with move from Pittsburgh.

UT Pablo Ozuna
Good bunter, versatile player who hit .413 in the first half.

C Toby Hall
Former Tampa Bay regular will start against many lefthanders.

OF Ryan Sweeney
Sweet-swinging lefty will be after a starting assignment.

ROTATION

RHP Jose Contreras
Oldest White Sox starter but only one signed beyond 2008.

RHP Jon Garland
Almost traded to Houston after second straight 18-win season.

LHP Mark Buehrle
Trying to bounce back from alarming 2006.

RHP Javier Vazquez
Could benefit from spending two seasons with same team.

RHP Gavin Floyd
One of many candidates for the No. 5 starter.

BULLPEN

RHP Bobby Jenks
Overgrown kid had 41 saves in first full big-league season.

RHP Mike MacDougal
Power righthander pitched well after trade to Chicago.

LHP Matt Thornton
Located zone after working with pitching coach Don Cooper.

RHP David Aardsma
Tough to hit but control can sometimes be a problem.

LHP Boone Logan
Strong finish convinced White Sox to trade Neal Cotts.

RHP Nick Masset
Powerful righty arrives with almost as much potential as Jenks.

Other teams are watching him closely as the Sox have been slow to pursue a contract extension, in part because they have a replacement knocking on the door in Josh Fields. Paul Konerko, a cornerstone player, turned 30 a year ago but continues to improve as a hitter, batting a career-high .313 last year.

Outfield Look for another huge season from right fielder Jermaine Dye, who is a year away from free agency and has put the question of health in his rear-view mirror by averaging 143 games the last three seasons. But if the White Sox are going to reach the playoffs, they must improve in center and left, where incumbents Brian Anderson and Scott Podsednik face serious challenges. Those guys combined for only 78 RBIs a year ago. Management might have been negligent not to add an impact player from outside the organization, putting pressure on rookies Ryan Sweeney and Jerry Owens. Sweeney's the best hitter in this group, but none of the four guys in the left-center mix provide power. A deal at the trading deadline could be required.

Catching With the addition of the right-handed-hitting Toby Hall, this is an improved situation. A.J. Pierzynski and Hall might be the best duo of catchers in the AL. Solid hitting from the left side and a flair for dramatics have made Pierzynski popular with Sox fans and Guillen, who rarely rested him in 2006. The downside to Pierzynski's game is that he's become an easy target for base-stealers, in part because Sox starters other than Buehrle can be easy to run on. He threw out only 21.7 percent of attempted base-stealers a year ago. Also, Pierzynski could be a little more selective at the plate; it's hard to believe, but he's never walked 25 times in a season. Hall, an economic casualty who was non-tendered by the Dodgers, has hit well at U.S. Cellular.

DH/Bench You could trace the White Sox's fall from a 57–31 first half to a 33–41 second half to Jim Thome's declining production — 30 homers, 77 RBIs in the first half and 12 homers, 32 RBIs in the second half. He had back, wrist and hamstring problems in July and August. He'll work to find ways to stay in the lineup and should at least equal his 2006 numbers if he does not suffer a serious injury. Rob Mackowiak, Pablo Ozuna, Alex Cintron and Hall provide experience. If rookie Chris Stewart sticks as a third catcher, Guillen can use Hall and Pierzynski regularly to rest Thome or as pinch hitters.

Management Owner Jerry Reinsdorf doesn't believe in signing pitchers for more than three years, which gives GM Ken Williams little chance to keep together the pitching staff that keyed the 11–1 run through the playoffs in 2005. Williams has been busy acquiring candidates to replace Buehrle, Garland and Vazquez, and the next two seasons figure to be a good time for the organization's pitching prospects. Guillen and pitching coach Don Cooper could be tested working with younger pitchers. Guillen too often made headlines with his comments in 2006 and could be in danger of wearing out his welcome if the Sox don't return to the playoffs.

Final Analysis Winning is essential with Buehrle and Dye heading toward free agency and the names of Crede, Garland and Vazquez (eligible for free agency after 2008) being tossed around in possible trades. An improved bullpen and a return to form by Buehrle could key an increase to 95-plus victories, especially if Williams finds a player to upgrade the outfield.

FANTASY TICKER

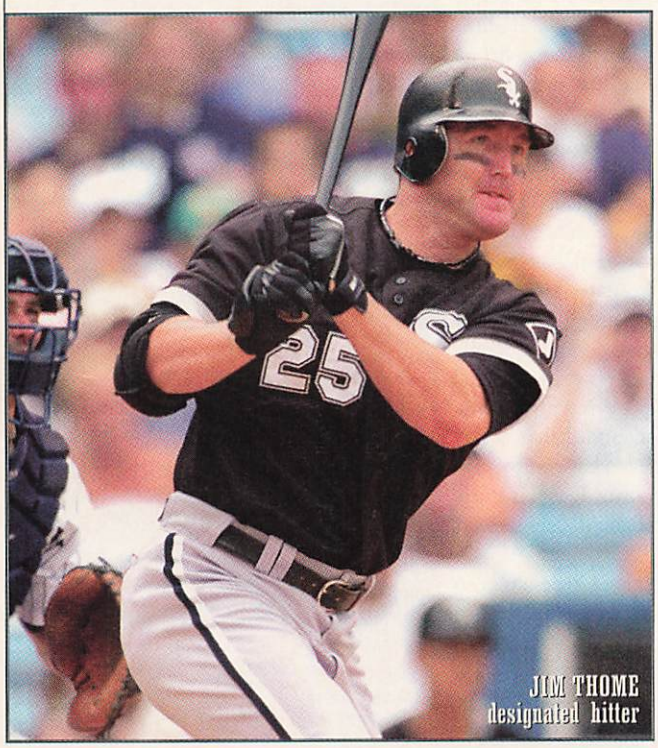
Blue Chip Bopper: Paul Konerko
High-Dividend Hurler: Mark Buehrle
Buy Recommendation: Brian Anderson
Sell Recommendation: Scott Podsednik
Medical (In)Securities: Joe Crede
IPO: OF Ryan Sweeney
Futures Market: 3B Josh Fields
Insider Tip: Buehrle will snap back for a big year.

STATLINE

Most Games Since Last Caught Stealing

1.	**Paul Konerko**	**1,231**
2.	Todd Pratt	526
3.	Doug Mirabelli	518*
4.	Johnny Estrada	469*
5.	Javier Valentin	440*

(active non-pitchers) * never caught


JIM THOME
designated hitter

STATISTICIAN

1,042 League-leading number of innings thrown by White Sox starting pitchers in 2006. The Sox had 200-plus innings from four starters in both '05 and '06.

52 Club record number of sellouts, including 22 in a row from July 5 through Aug. 17. The season attendance of 2,957,411 was a franchise record, breaking the mark set in 1991.

50 Strikeouts by Javier Vazquez in September, tying Cubs rookie Rich Hill for the most in the majors.

7 White Sox players named to the All-Star team, the most since the 1960 team also sent seven.

7 Shutouts pitched by Jon Garland over the last two seasons.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

During the World Series season in 2005 and the first half of '06, **Mark Buehrle** was the cornerstone piece to the starting rotation. He slid into a funk after allowing 11 runs in five innings at Wrigley Field on July 2, and never re-emerged, finishing the season 3–9 in his last 16 starts. He's pitched to contact throughout his career but got banged around unusually hard during this stretch. The second-half slide ended thoughts of a contract extension, and he heads toward free agency after 2006. The return of the old Buehrle would set a great tone for the White Sox early in the season.

Thome: Steve Moore; McCulloch: Bill Mitchell

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

GETTING TO KNOW YOU After using only six different starters in 2005, the White Sox made it through the '06 season with seven starters. Jose Contreras was the only member of the rotation to go on the disabled list, missing two starts that were made by Charlie Haeger and Brandon McCarthy. The Sox have used only eight different starters the last two seasons with Mark Buehrle, Freddy Garcia, Jon Garland and Contreras averaging 32 starts per year.

BACK, BACK, BACK With Jermaine Dye, Jim Thome, Paul Konerko and Joe Crede hitting at least 30 homers apiece, the White Sox produced a major league high 236 home runs, only six short of the club record set two years ago. It gave them seven consecutive seasons of 200-plus homers, an ongoing big league record they share with the Yankees, who have also had 200-plus every season since 2000. Only two other teams (the Angels and Blue Jays, both in 2000) had ever had four players with 30-plus homers in the same season.

CROWDED HOUSE The White Sox became the 11th team to win at least 90 games and miss the playoffs since MLB went to the eight-team postseason format in 1995. That's happened to an AL team in each of the last four seasons, however, a trend speaking to the strength of the top teams in the league. The AL Central produced three 90-win teams in 2006, the first time any division has done that since 2002, when both West divisions had three 90-win teams.

MARATHON MAN Mark Buehrle became the first pitcher in club history to make at least 30 starts in six consecutive seasons. He has thrown 1,376.2 innings since the start of the 2001 season, the second most in the majors behind Livan Hernandez.

RUNNING HIMSELF DIZZY Jim Thome scored at least one run in the first 17 games of the season, a major league record to start the season. He was stopped only one short of the overall AL record, which is shared by Red Rolfe and Kenny Lofton.

THE FARM SYSTEM

2006 Top Draft Pick

For the fifth year in a row, the White Sox used their first-round pick on a polished college junior. **Kyle McCulloch**, a righthander who led Texas to the College World Series title in his sophomore season, was 27–9 in his career at Texas and also pitched well in the Cape Cod League and for Team USA. He throws three pitches for strikes, including a low-90s fastball with late movement. He should spend most of 2007 pitching in Double-A.

Prospects

3B Josh Fields Former Oklahoma State quarterback was voted Rookie of the Year in the International League.
OF Ryan Sweeney Good fielder with a strong arm, has thrived but still needs to add more power.
LHP John Danks Ninth overall pick in the '03 draft pitched well in Triple-A and seems a good bet for rotation in '08.
RHP Charlie Haeger Knuckleballer won 29 games last two years, could stick as long reliever or fifth starter.
LHP Gio Gonzalez Power pitcher with wicked curveball in second stint in system; lack of control is an issue.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Ozzie Guillen **COACHES:** Harold Baines, Don Cooper, Joey Cora, Art Kusnyer, Razor Shines, Greg Walker

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
34	David Aardsma	R-R	12/27/81	**CHICAGO NL**	**3-0**	**4.08**	**45**	**0**	**53.0**	**49**
				Iowa (AAA)	2-3	3.22	29	0	36.1	36
56	Mark Buehrle	L-L	3/23/79	**CHICAGO AL**	**12-13**	**4.99**	**32**	**0**	**204.0**	**98**
52	Jose Contreras	R-R	12/6/71	**CHICAGO AL**	**13-9**	**4.27**	**30**	**0**	**196.0**	**134**
60	Dewon Day	R-R	9/29/80	Winston-Salem (A)	1-4	3.40	40	8	47.2	63
34	Gavin Floyd	R-R	1/27/83	**PHILADELPHIA**	**4-3**	**7.29**	**11**	**0**	**54.1**	**34**
				Scranton (AAA)	7-4	4.23	17	0	115.0	85
20	Jon Garland	R-R	9/27/79	**CHICAGO AL**	**18-7**	**4.51**	**33**	**0**	**211.1**	**112**
40	Charlie Haeger	R-R	9/19/83	**CHICAGO AL**	**1-1**	**3.44**	**7**	**1**	**18.1**	**19**
				Charlotte (AAA)	14-6	3.07	26	0	170.0	130
45	Bobby Jenks	R-R	3/14/81	**CHICAGO AL**	**3-4**	**4.00**	**67**	**41**	**69.2**	**80**
57	Boone Logan	R-L	8/13/84	**CHICAGO AL**	**0-0**	**8.31**	**21**	**1**	**17.1**	**15**
				Charlotte (AAA)	3-1	3.38	38	11	42.2	57
47	Mike MacDougal	R-R	3/5/77	**CHICAGO AL**	**1-1**	**1.55**	**29**	**1**	**29.0**	**21**
				KANSAS CITY	**0-0**	**0.00**	**4**	**1**	**4.0**	**2**
57	Nick Masset	R-R	5/17/82	**TEXAS**	**0-0**	**4.15**	**8**	**0**	**8.2**	**4**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	4-5	4.81	24	3	67.1	65
				Frisco (AA)	2-2	2.06	8	0	48.0	40
58	Oneli Perez	R-R	5/26/84	Birmingham (AA)	0-1	0.55	7	1	16.1	20
				Kannapolis (A)	3-1	1.02	28	8	35.1	40
				Winston-Salem (A)	1-0	0.72	17	0	25.0	29
43	Heath Phillips	L-L	3/24/82	Charlotte (AAA)	13-5	2.96	25	0	155.0	102
48	Paulino Reynoso	L-L	8/10/80	Charlotte (AAA)	3-3	4.37	47	0	59.2	59
51	Andrew Sisco	L-L	1/13/83	**KANSAS CITY**	**1-3**	**7.10**	**65**	**1**	**58.1**	**52**
				Omaha (AAA)	0-0	0.00	3	1	4.2	6
37	Matt Thornton	L-L	9/15/76	**CHICAGO AL**	**5-3**	**3.33**	**63**	**2**	**54.0**	**49**
50	Sean Tracey	L-R	11/14/80	**CHICAGO AL**	**0-0**	**3.38**	**7**	**0**	**8.0**	3
				Charlotte (AAA)	8-9	4.30	29	0	129.2	102
49	Carlos Vasquez	L-L	12/6/82	West Tenn (AA)	3-5	3.55	36	3	50.2	60
				Daytona (A)	3-0	1.57	18	0	34.1	31
33	Javier Vazquez	R-R	7/25/76	**CHICAGO AL**	**11-12**	**4.84**	**33**	**0**	**202.2**	**184**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
44	Toby Hall	R-R	10/21/75	**TAMPA BAY**	**.231**	**64**	**221**	**15**	**8**	**23**	**0**
				LOS ANGELES NL	**.368**	**21**	**57**	**2**	**0**	**8**	**0**
12	A.J. Pierzynski	L-R	12/30/76	**CHICAGO AL**	**.295**	**140**	**509**	**65**	**16**	**64**	**1**
39	Chris Stewart	R-R	2/19/82	**CHICAGO AL**	**.000**	**6**	**8**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Charlotte (AAA)	.296	118	449	64	13	70	7

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
8	Alex Cintron	S-R	12/17/78	**CHICAGO AL**	**.285**	**91**	**288**	**35**	**5**	**41**	**10**
24	Joe Crede	R-R	4/26/78	**CHICAGO AL**	**.283**	**150**	**544**	**76**	**30**	**94**	**0**
17	Josh Fields	R-R	12/14/82	Charlotte (AAA)	.305	124	462	85	19	70	28
26	Andy Gonzalez	R-R	12/15/81	**CHICAGO AL**	**.271**	**116**	**402**	**48**	**6**	**51**	**0**
15	Tadahito Iguchi	R-R	12/4/74	**CHICAGO AL**	**.281**	**138**	**555**	**97**	**18**	**67**	**11**
14	Paul Konerko	R-R	3/5/76	**CHICAGO AL**	**.313**	**152**	**566**	**97**	**35**	**113**	**1**
62	Pedro Lopez	R-R	4/28/84	Charlotte (AAA)	.274	59	208	32	5	24	4
38	Pablo Ozuna	R-R	8/25/74	**CHICAGO AL**	**.328**	**79**	**189**	**25**	**2**	**17**	**6**
36	Casey Rogowski	L-L	5/1/81	Charlotte (AAA)	.272	127	459	69	13	76	26
25	Jim Thome	L-R	8/27/70	**CHICAGO AL**	**.288**	**143**	**490**	**108**	**42**	**109**	**0**
5	Juan Uribe	R-R	3/22/79	**CHICAGO AL**	**.235**	**135**	**463**	**53**	**21**	**71**	**1**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
32	Brian Anderson	R-R	5/11/82	**CHICAGO AL**	**.225**	**134**	**365**	**46**	**8**	**33**	**4**
23	Jermaine Dye	R-R	1/28/74	**CHICAGO AL**	**.315**	**146**	**539**	**103**	**44**	**120**	**7**
10	Rob Mackowiak	L-R	6/20/76	**CHICAGO AL**	**.290**	**112**	**255**	**31**	**5**	**23**	**5**
7	Jerry Owens	L-L	2/16/81	**CHICAGO AL**	**.333**	**12**	**9**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**1**
				Charlotte (AAA)	.262	112	439	75	4	48	40
22	Scott Podsednik	L-L	3/18/76	**CHICAGO AL**	**.261**	**139**	**524**	**86**	**3**	**45**	**40**
31	Ryan Sweeney	L-L	2/20/85	**CHICAGO AL**	**.229**	**18**	**35**	**1**	**0**	**5**	**0**
				Charlotte (AAA)	.296	118	449	64	13	70	7
27	Luis Terrero	R-R	5/18/80	**BALTIMORE**	**.200**	**27**	**40**	**4**	**1**	**6**	**0**
				Ottawa (AAA)	.318	84	302	52	16	44	18

Cleveland Indians

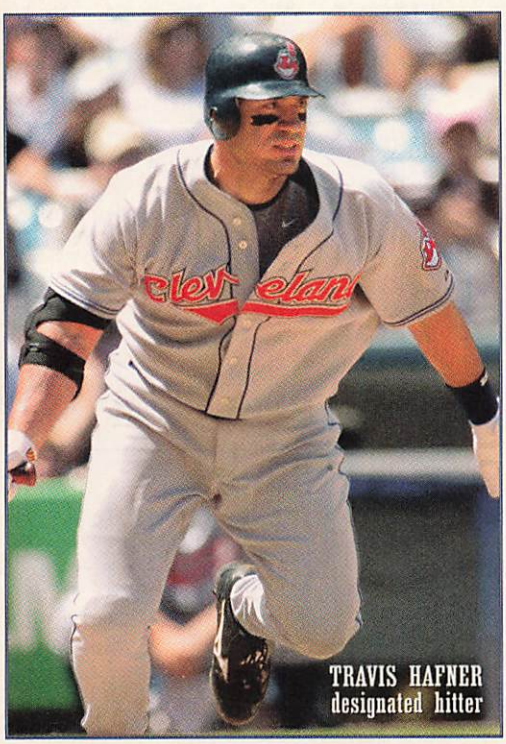
2007 Prediction: 4th

2006 Finish: 78–84

AL Central

The Indians are back in the shadows — right where they belong. They wilted in the 2006 spotlight and enter this season with little playoff buzz and three teams sitting in front of them in the AL Central that won 90 or more games last year. The offense and starting rotation are playoff-caliber. The bullpen and infield defense are not.

Rotation C.C. Sabathia, Jake Westbrook, Cliff Lee, Paul Byrd and Jeremy Sowers are durable and good. Sowers must prove he can pitch an entire big league season after joining the Indians in late June and making 14 starts after Jason Johnson flopped. If the defense doesn't improve, groundball pitchers Byrd, Westbrook and Sowers will suffer. There could be some movement during the season with Westbrook and Byrd eligible for free agency at the end of the year. Sabathia needs to stay healthy early in the season after missing time in April of 2005 and '06 because of oblique strains. Fausto Carmona, Brian Slocum and Adam Miller provide depth.



TRAVIS HAFNER
designated hitter

Bullpen GM Mark Shapiro signed veterans Keith Foulke, Joe Borowski, Aaron Fultz and Roberto Hernandez to repair a pen that last year saved the fewest games in the big leagues. Borowski, who saved 36 games for Florida last year, and Foulke will compete for the closer's job in spring training. Rafael Betancourt, Matt Miller, Fernando Cabrera and Jason Davis, holdovers from last year, could fill out the pen. Betancourt is all but guaranteed a setup job, and Cabrera and Davis are out of options. Miller, a sidearmer, is coming off right elbow surgery. Promising lefties Tony Sipp and Rafael Perez will push Fultz and give manager Eric Wedge the choice of carrying two lefties. Carmona is an option as well.

Middle Infield Jhonny Peralta needs a big year, and Josh Barfield just has to do what he did last season in San Diego. If Peralta doesn't show he's at least an average shortstop defensively, two things will happen — the Indians won't win and Peralta won't be a shortstop for long even though he signed a five-year, $13 million deal in 2006. When Peralta hit .292 with 24 homers and 78 RBIs in 2005, his lack of range was not an issue. It became a problem last year when he hit .257 with 13 homers and 68 RBIs. If Peralta doesn't work out, the Indians will have to acquire a shortstop or go with prospect Asdrubal Cabrera. They acquired Barfield during the offseason for Kevin Kouzmanoff to fill a second base hole created by the in-season trade of Ronnie Belliard. Barfield had a fine rookie year in 2006, and his range and speed should help the Tribe's shaky defense.

Corners Third baseman Andy Marte is another young infielder who will get a chance to grow with Peralta and Barfield. Marte, acquired from Boston in the Coco Crisp trade before the 2006 season, needs to show more power and the same kind of defense he displayed after joining the Indians in late July. He spent the winter in Cleveland working on his conditioning and strength. Casey Blake, Victor Martinez and Ryan Garko should see time at first base. Blake is scheduled to play first against righthanders. Garko was impressive offensively in a 50-game trial last year, but there are concerns about the converted catcher's defense. The switch-hitting Martinez is expected to play first when he needs a break from catching.

Outfield Center fielder Grady Sizemore is turning into one of the best players in the game. His arm is below average, but he does everything else well. In his last two years as the Tribe's leadoff hitter, he's scored 245 runs. Shapiro signed David Dellucci to a three-year, $11.5 million deal to platoon with Jason Michaels in left field. Michaels was given a chance to play every day last season, but it didn't work out. Blake and Trot Nixon, signed as a free agent in late January, are expected to platoon in right. Nixon hit .288 with 42 RBIs in 288 at-bats vs. righthanders during his injury shortened 2006 season in Boston.

Catching There's nothing wrong with Martinez's bat, but his inability to stop the running game unsettled the infield defense last season. Martinez, who played with a sore right shoulder and bruised foot, benefited from playing more first base in the second half last season. The Indians will continue to do that this year, but they still consider Martinez their No. 1 catcher. Martinez threw out only 16 of 116 basestealers, while hitting .316 with 16 homers and 93 RBIs. Kelly Shoppach has a strong arm and quick release but needs more playing time to develop as a hitter.

DH/Bench If David Ortiz is the face of the franchise in Boston, Travis Hafner carries the same title in Cleveland. The Indians just wish Pronk was able to keep his face and bat in the

STATLINE

Most Single-Season RBIs in 50 or Fewer Games

1.	Ryan Garko	45	(2006)
2.	Ed Herr	43	(1888)
3t.	Nap Lajoie	42	(1896)
3t.	Eddie Williams	42	(1994)
5.	George Selkirk	38	(1934)

Hafner: Steve Moore; Sizemore: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

lineup more often. Hafner had a chance to lead the AL in homers and RBIs last year but missed September with a broken bone in his right hand after getting hit by a pitch. In four years with the Indians, Hafner has never played more than 140 games in a season. Utility men Hector Luna and Joe Inglett can play several positions. The Indians asked Luna to lose weight over the winter so he can push Peralta at short. Inglett and outfielder Franklin Gutierrez offer speed on a club that stole the third-fewest bases in the AL last year. Infielders Luis Rivas and Keith Ginter will come to camp as spring training invitees to add depth at second and third base, respectively.

Management When 2007 dawned, Shapiro and manager Eric Wedge were in the last years of their contracts. Shapiro was in the process of negotiating a new deal with owner Larry Dolan. Ownership believes deeply in Shapiro's rebuilding plan, and Wedge has strong ties with Shapiro, but those ties will be tested if the Indians fail again this year. After the club won 93 games in 2005, many expected the Indians to reach the postseason in 2006. Before they ran up the white flag at midseason and started trading veterans, the Indians looked poorly prepared, a direct reflection on the manager. This will be Shapiro's and Wedge's fifth season together. They made impressive gains, on a tight budget, in the first three years before last season's hiccup. Wedge will have trouble making it through another such season.

Final Analysis In the blink of an eye, the AL Central has become baseball's toughest division. The White Sox won the World Series in 2005 and Detroit reached the Series in '06, but not before losing the division title on the last day of the season to the Twins. This surge of talent and payroll has left the Indians out-gunned, out-spent and, perhaps, out of luck. They have been unable, or unwilling, to make the kind of deal to re-ignite interest among their fan base, and the clock is running out on this current group of players. Hafner and Sabathia, their best hitter and pitcher, can be free agents after 2008. Shapiro's window to complete his rebuilding plan and reach the postseason for the first time since 2001 is closing fast.

GRADY SIZEMORE
center field

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Travis Hafner
High-Dividend Hurler: C.C. Sabathia
Buy Recommendation: Jeremy Sowers
Sell Recommendation: Casey Blake
Medical (In)Securities: Joe Borowski
IPO: 1B Ryan Garko
Futures Market: RHP Adam Miller
Insider Tip: Garko and Andy Marte will be among year's best buys

STATISTICIAN

.571 Travis Hafner's batting average with the bases loaded, including six homers and 30 RBIs.
196 Grady Sizemore's consecutive games played streak, the fifth-longest active streak in baseball.
134 Sizemore's AL-leading total in runs.
6 Consecutive decisions rookie lefthander Jeremy Sowers won from July 22 through Sept. 5.
2.90 C.C. Sabathia's AL-leading ERA on the road.
45 Rookie Ryan Garko's RBI total in 50 games last year.
27 Number of times the Indians scored nine or more runs in a game, an MLB high last season.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

The Indians need shortstop **Jhonny Peralta** to find a happy medium. They believe he is the key to their season. Manager Eric Wedge doesn't need Peralta to be the power hitter he was in 2005, but he does need him to be a better defender and a sharper, more focused player than he was in 2006. If Peralta produces a 2007 season somewhere between '05 and '06, the Indians believe they can contend. Peralta is a big man — he grew over an inch last year — and the Indians think he needs to improve his pitch-to-pitch concentration to improve his range.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

CF Grady Sizemore
Led the AL in runs, doubles and extra base hits.

1B Casey Blake
He'll be in the lineup every day in right, first, third or somewhere.

DH Travis Hafner
He hit 16 HRs vs. lefties, second-most in the AL to David Ortiz.

C Victor Martinez
Could replace Ivan Rodriguez as the best catcher in the AL.

RF Trot Nixon
Production has tailed off in recent years; health also an issue.

LF David Dellucci
If he shows he can hit lefties, he'll play every day.

SS Jhonny Peralta
Must improve defense and reduce his 152 Ks from last year.

2B Josh Barfield
Power numbers may improve now that he's away from Petco Park.

3B Andy Marte
Third basemen got paid to produce runs; can he do it in the bigs?

BENCH

C Kelly Shoppach
Threw out 10-of-29 basestealers and showed occasional power.

INF Hector Luna
Swings the bat well but showed limited range at 2B and SS.

INF Joe Inglett
Contact hitter with speed, but his inability to play SS hurts.

OF Jason Michaels
Scheduled to platoon in left field this year.

1B Ryan Garko
Tribe will find some at-bats at first for this former catcher.

ROTATION

LHP C.C. Sabathia
Expected to be fully recovered from surgery on his right knee.

LHP Jeremy Sowers
Rookie went 16–5 last season between AAA and Cleveland.

RHP Jake Westbrook
He's thrown more than 210 innings the last three years.

LHP Cliff Lee
Has won 14 or more games in each of the last three years.

RHP Paul Byrd
Salary of $7.25 million is a bargain for a veteran No. 5 starter.

BULLPEN

RHP Keith Foulke
Once-dominant closer getting his shot with the Tribe.

RHP Joe Borowski
He'll get a chance to setup or close depending Foulke's health.

RHP Rafael Betancourt
Did not pitch great in '06 but still draws a lot of trade interest.

LHP Aaron Fultz
Answers the need for a veteran lefty.

RHP Roberto Hernandez
Can he still get it done in the offensive-minded AL?

RHP Jason Davis
Former starter still has problems pitching with runners on base.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Eric Wedge **COACHES:** Jeff Datz, Luis Isaac, Luis Rivera, Derek Shelton, Joel Skinner, Dan Williams, Carl Willis

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
63	Rafael Betancourt	R-R	4/29/75	**CLEVELAND**	**3-4**	**3.81**	**50**	**3**	**56.2**	**48**
				Akron (AA)	0-0	0.00	1	0	1.0	2
47	Joe Borowski	R-R	5/4/71	**FLORIDA**	**3-3**	**3.75**	**72**	**36**	**69.2**	**64**
36	Paul Byrd	R-R	12/3/70	**CLEVELAND**	**10-9**	**4.88**	**31**	**0**	**179.0**	**88**
56	Fernando Cabrera	R-R	11/16/81	**CLEVELAND**	**3-3**	**5.19**	**51**	**0**	**0.2**	**71**
				Buffalo (AAA)	1-0	1.08	4	0	8.1	13
55	Fausto Carmona	R-R	12/7/83	**CLEVELAND**	**1-10**	**5.42**	**38**	**0**	**74.2**	**58**
				Buffalo (AAA)	1-3	5.53	6	0	27.2	28
50	Jason Davis	R-R	5/8/80	**CLEVELAND**	**3-2**	**3.74**	**39**	**1**	**55.1**	**37**
				Buffalo (AAA)	0-2	0.54	11	4	16.2	15
	Keith Foulke	R-R	10/19/72	**BOSTON**	**3-1**	**4.35**	**44**	**0**	**49.2**	**36**
46	Aaron Fultz	L-L	9/4/73	**PHILADELPHIA**	**3-1**	**4.54**	**66**	**0**	**71.1**	**62**
57	Jeremy Guthrie	R-R	4/8/79	**CLEVELAND**	**0-0**	**6.98**	**9**	**0**	**19.1**	**14**
				Buffalo (AAA)	9-5	3.14	21	0	123.1	88
39	Roberto Hernandez	R-R	11/11/64	**PITTSBURGH**	**0-3**	**2.93**	**46**	**2**	**43.0**	**33**
				NEW YORK NL	**0-0**	**3.48**	**22**	**0**	**20.2**	**15**
	Juan Lara	R-L	1/26/81	**CLEVELAND**	**0-0**	**1.80**	**9**	**0**	**5.0**	**2**
				Buffalo (AAA)	1-1	3.00	13	1	15.0	15
				Akron (AA)	4-2	2.70	40	7	46.2	48
31	Cliff Lee	L-L	8/30/78	**CLEVELAND**	**14-11**	**4.40**	**33**	**0**	**200.2**	**129**
	J.D. Martin	R-R	1/2/83	Mahoning Valley (A)	0-1	1.50	6	0	18.0	13
				Lake County (A)	0-1	4.20	5	0	15.0	16
				Kinston (A)	1-0	0.00	3	0	11.1	11
40	Tom Mastny	R-R	2/4/81	**CLEVELAND**	**0-1**	**5.51**	**15**	**5**	**16.1**	**14**
				Buffalo (AAA)	2-1	2.61	24	0	38.0	46
				Akron (AA)	0-1	1.09	12	1	24.2	30
59	Matt Miller	R-R	11/23/71	**CLEVELAND**	**1-0**	**3.45**	**14**	**0**	**15.2**	**12**
				Buffalo (AAA)	0-0	0.00	1	0	1.0	2
				Akron (AA)	0-0	0.00	2	0	2.0	0
49	Edward Mujica	R-R	5/10/84	**CLEVELAND**	**0-1**	**2.95**	**10**	**0**	**18.1**	**12**
				Buffalo (AAA)	3-1	2.48	22	5	32.2	29
				Akron (AA)	1-0	0.00	12	8	19.0	17
53	Rafael Perez	L-L	5/15/82	**CLEVELAND**	**0-0**	**4.38**	**18**	**0**	**12.1**	**15**
				Buffalo (AAA)	0-3	2.63	13	0	27.1	33
				Akron (AA)	4-5	2.81	12	0	67.1	53
52	C.C. Sabathia	L-L	7/21/80	**CLEVELAND**	**12-11**	**3.22**	**28**	**0**	**192.2**	**172**
				Akron (AA)	1-0	1.80	1	0	5.0	5
54	Brian Slocum	R-R	3/27/81	**CLEVELAND**	**0-0**	**5.60**	**8**	**0**	**17.2**	**11**
				Buffalo (AAA)	6-3	3.35	27	1	94.0	91
45	Jeremy Sowers	L-L	5/17/83	**CLEVELAND**	**7-4**	**3.57**	**14**	**0**	**88.1**	**35**
				Buffalo (AAA)	9-1	1.39	18	0	97.1	54
37	Jake Westbrook	R-R	9/29/77	**CLEVELAND**	**15-10**	**4.17**	**32**	**0**	**211.1**	**109**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
41	Victor Martinez	S-R	12/23/78	**CLEVELAND**	**.316**	**153**	**572**	**82**	**16**	**93**	**0**
10	Kelly Shoppach	R-R	4/29/80	**CLEVELAND**	**.245**	**41**	**110**	**7**	**3**	**16**	**0**
				Buffalo (AAA)	.282	21	78	11	4	9	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
68	Michael Aubrey	L-L	4/15/82	Akron (AA)	.269	6	26	3	1	2	0
				Kinston (A)	.286	8	28	8	2	10	0
29	Josh Barfield	R-R	12/17/82	**SAN DIEGO**	**.280**	**150**	**539**	**72**	**13**	**58**	**21**
25	Ryan Garko	R-R	1/2/81	**CLEVELAND**	**.292**	**50**	**185**	**28**	**7**	**45**	**0**
				Buffalo (AAA)	.247	103	364	43	15	59	4
	Keith Ginter	R-R	5/5/76	**OAKLAND**	**.161**	**51**	**137**	**12**	**3**	**25**	**0**
48	Travis Hafner	L-R	6/3/77	**CLEVELAND**	**.308**	**129**	**454**	**100**	**42**	**117**	**0**
7	Joe Inglett	L-R	6/29/78	**CLEVELAND**	**.284**	**64**	**201**	**26**	**2**	**21**	**5**
				Buffalo (AAA)	.299	40	157	21	1	13	3
				Akron (AA)	.516	18	64	20	3	9	7
27	Hector Luna	R-R	2/1/80	**CLEVELAND**	**.276**	**37**	**127**	**14**	**2**	**17**	**0**
				ST. LOUIS	**.291**	**76**	**223**	**27**	**4**	**21**	**5**
30	Andy Marte	R-R	10/21/83	**CLEVELAND**	**.226**	**50**	**164**	**20**	**5**	**23**	**0**
				Buffalo (AAA)	.261	96	357	49	15	46	1
2	Jhonny Peralta	R-R	5/28/82	**CLEVELAND**	**.257**	**149**	**569**	**84**	**13**	**68**	**0**
	Luis Rivas	R-R	8/30/79	**MINNESOTA**	**.257**	**59**	**136**	**21**	**1**	**12**	**4**
	Mike Rouse	L-R	4/25/80	**OAKLAND**	**.292**	**8**	**24**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**1**
				Sacramento (AAA)	.258	99	345	59	6	47	4

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
1	Casey Blake	R-R	8/23/73	**CLEVELAND**	**.282**	**109**	**401**	**63**	**19**	**68**	**6**
				Akron (AA)	.333	1	3	0	0	1	0
				Lake County (A)	.500	1	2	1	1	2	0
16	Shin-Soo Choo	L-L	7/13/82	**CLEVELAND**	**.295**	**45**	**146**	**23**	**3**	**22**	**5**
				SEATTLE	**.090**	**4**	**11**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Tacoma (AAA)	.323	94	375	71	13	48	26
20	David Dellucci	L-L	10/31/73	**PHILADELPHIA**	**.292**	**132**	**264**	**41**	**13**	**39**	**1**
	Ben Francisco	R-R	10/23/81	Buffalo (AAA)	.278	134	515	80	17	59	25
38	Franklin Gutierrez	R-R	2/21/83	**CLEVELAND**	**.272**	**43**	**136**	**21**	**1**	**8**	**0**
				Buffalo (AAA)	.278	90	349	63	9	38	13
8	Jason Michaels	R-R	5/4/76	**CLEVELAND**	**.267**	**123**	**494**	**77**	**9**	**55**	**9**
				Buffalo (AAA)	.429	2	7	1	1	1	0
	Trot Nixon	L-L	4/11/74	**BOSTON**	**.268**	**114**	**381**	**59**	**8**	**52**	**0**
24	Grady Sizemore	L-L	8/2/82	**CLEVELAND**	**.290**	**162**	**655**	**134**	**28**	**76**	**22**
75	Brad Snyder	L-L	5/25/82	Akron (AA)	.270	135	523	86	18	72	20

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

BAD WEEK After being moved into the closer's job following the Bob Wickman trade in July, rookie Fausto Carmona lost four games, including three blown saves, in a week's span from July 30 through Aug. 5. He gave up walk-off hits to David Ortiz (homer), Mark Loretta (double) and Ivan Rodriguez (homer).

MR. SLAM Travis Hafner tied Don Mattingly's big league record with six grand slams even though he missed September with a broken bone in his right hand. Overall, the Indians tied Oakland's big league record with 14 slams.

MR. ZERO Rookie Jeremy Sowers pitched consecutive complete game shutouts against the Twins and Mariners on July 22 and July 28. He was the first Indians rookie to do that since Dick Tidrow in 1972.

HARD TO FIGURE The Indians outscored their opponents by 88 runs (870–782) but still finished six games below .500.

QUESTIONABLE TRADE Manager Eric Wedge chose journeyman Ramon Vazquez over Brandon Phillips as the last position player to make the team in spring training last year. Phillips was traded to Cincinnati where he became the Reds' starting second baseman, while Vazquez bounced between Cleveland and Class AAA Buffalo.

ACROSS THE BOARD Grady Sizemore became the second player in history to hit at least 50 doubles, 10 triples, 20 homers, and steal 20 or more bases in one season. Hall of Famer Chuck Klein did it for the Phillies in 1932.

BOUNCE BACK POWER On Aug. 23, the Indians gave up 10 runs to the Royals in the first inning but rallied for a 15–13 victory in 10 innings. They were only the second team in history to win a game in which they allowed a 10-run first inning.

THE FARM SYSTEM

Rich Abel

2006 Top Draft Pick

The Indians took UCLA lefthander **David Huff** with their top pick in the 2006 draft. They lost their No. 1 pick after signing free agent Paul Byrd and selected Huff with the 39th pick overall. Huff, who signed for $900,000, went 7–4 with a 2.98 ERA and had 100 strikeouts in 129.2 innings for UCLA. After signing, Huff made four starts for Class A Mahoning Valley. He threw 7.2 innings, striking out eight and walking seven in going 0–1 with a 5.87 ERA. The Indians like to fast-track their college pitchers, but Huff has a lot of talented arms in front of him.

Prospects

RHP Adam Miller After recovering from elbow problems in 2005, he went 15–6 at Class AA Akron last year.

OF Trevor Crowe Aggressive leadoff hitter who someday may allow the Tribe to drop Grady Sizemore to the No. 3 hole.

RHP Fausto Carmona His strong right arm will help the Indians sometime this year as a starter or reliever.

OF Ben Francisco Well-rounded player who can do a little bit of everything.

LHP Rafael Perez If the Indians need a lefthander in the bullpen, Perez will get the first call.

Detroit Tigers

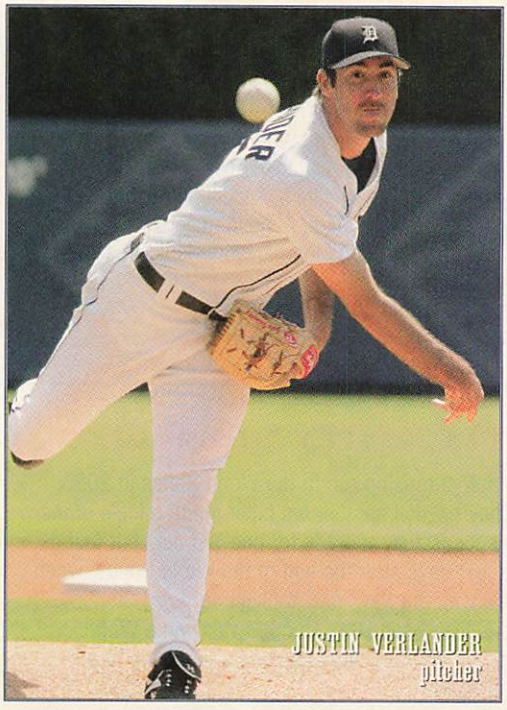
2007 Prediction: 2nd

2006 Finish: 95–67
AL Central

The night the Tigers lost the World Series, Justin Verlander started talking about a dynasty. A Tiger dynasty. "Could be," Verlander said. "Absolutely. Definitely." Perhaps he should have waited for the Tigers to win a World Series, but at least you get the idea that the standards have been raised around Comerica Park. The Tigers' amazing trip to October may have been a surprise, but it wasn't a fluke, and the minute it was over the Tigers went to work on trying to get there again. By trading for nine-time All-Star Gary Sheffield, the Tigers addressed what they considered their biggest 2006 weakness, the lack of a truly feared hitter in the middle of the lineup. Not many other changes were deemed necessary, so the Tigers return with virtually the same group that shocked the baseball world last year

Rotation The Tigers know that it was pitching that carried them to the World Series, and that's why they resisted any temptation to change their rotation. They didn't trade anyone, and they signed Jeremy Bonderman to a four-year contract that ensures the young core will stay together. It is still a young rotation, despite the presence of Kenny Rogers, who will try to duplicate at age 42 what he accomplished at 41. No one else in the rotation has yet turned 30, although both Mike Maroth and Nate Robertson will get there this summer. Jeremy Bonderman has four seasons and 45 wins behind him, but he's still just 24. The day he signed his contract, he said it's time to take "a big step forward." Verlander, four months younger than Bonderman, won 17 games and was the AL Rookie of the Year. But Verlander also took a big step up in innings, and there will be some concern that all the work last year will take a toll this season. Maroth comes back to claim the final spot in the rotation. He was off to a great start in 2006 before bone chips in his left elbow basically ended his season in late May.

Bullpen If the rotation was the strength of the 2006 Tigers, the bullpen wasn't far behind. And like the rotation, the bullpen returns largely intact, although left-handed specialist Jamie Walker is gone and veteran righthander Jose Mesa has arrived. Mesa has been a closer through much of his career, but the plan here is that he works in the middle, before setup men Joel Zumaya and Fernando Rodney and closer Todd Jones. Jones turns 39 in April, but he has 77 saves the last two seasons, and he was particularly effective from the middle of June on. Zumaya excited fans and fellow players with his radar gun readings, which often topped 100 mph and even touched 103 on occasion. Rodney was effective, too, and filled in well when Jones missed the first month of the season with a hamstring injury.



Tom Szczerbowski/US Presswire

Middle Infield On the one hand, Carlos Guillen led AL shortstops with 28 errors, leading to talk that he should be moved to first base. On the other hand, Guillen was the overwhelming choice as Tiger of the Year. He's still here, and he's still at shortstop, and he's still teaming with Placido Polanco at the heart of the Tiger team. Guillen and Polanco are two of the Tigers' most important players, and keeping them healthy is key if the Tigers plan to repeat their 2006 magic.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

CF Curtis Granderson
Hit six leadoff home runs but led AL in strikeouts.

2B Placido Polanco
Tigers were 35 games over .500 (71–36) with him in lineup.

DH Gary Sheffield
31st all-time with 455 HRs, 178 more than any other Tiger.

RF Magglio Ordonez
Pennant-clinching HR will be forever remembered in Tiger Town.

SS Carlos Guillen
Second Venezuelan to ever hit for the cycle.

C Ivan Rodriguez
13-time All-Star, 12-time Gold Glove winner, 10-time .300 hitter.

1B Sean Casey
Hit .245 for Tigers in regular season, .432 in postseason.

LF Craig Monroe
Had five game-winning hits in the 8th inning or later.

3B Brandon Inge
Led majors with 14 home runs, 46 RBIs while batting 9th.

BENCH

C Vance Wilson
Has career 34 percent success rate throwing out basestealers.

INF Omar Infante
Hit .220 with no homers at home, .330 with 4 homers on road.

OF Marcus Thames
Spent full year in the bigs for the first time last year, at age 29.

INF Neifi Perez
Acquired from Cubs after Polanco's injury, hit just .200 in 65 ABs.

ROTATION

LHP Kenny Rogers
Tigers were 27–9 in his starts, including 3–0 in postseason.

RHP Justin Verlander
Tigers' first Rookie of Year since Lou Whitaker in 1978.

RHP Jeremy Bonderman
Innings pitched up, ERA down three straight years.

LHP Nate Robertson
Lost seven of last 11 starts, despite a 3.79 ERA in that span.

LHP Mike Maroth
Didn't start after May 25 because of bone-chip surgery.

BULLPEN

RHP Todd Jones
Tigers' all-time leader with 179 career saves.

RHP Joel Zumaya
Hit triple-digits on radar gun in at least 42 of 62 appearances.

RHP Fernando Rodney
Limited opponents to .196 average, 6th-best in AL.

RHP Jose Mesa
320 career saves, but signed to pitch middle innings.

LHP Wilfredo Ledezma
2.55 ERA in 17 relief appearances in 2006.

RHP Jason Grilli
6.31 career ERA as a starter, 4.15 as reliever.

Corners The Tigers believed in Brandon Inge as a third baseman, and they still do, so much so that they signed him to a four-year, $24 million contract last fall. The Tigers thought they believed in Chris Shelton as their first baseman, but then he struggled so much that they traded for Sean Casey. The popular Casey didn't have great regular-season numbers, but he was great in the World Series, and the Tigers decided to bring him back for another year. Shelton is still here, but right now he doesn't have a job.

Outfield Sheffield is an All-Star outfielder, but the Tigers acquired him with the idea that he'll be closer to a full-time designated hitter. That means the outfield remains intact, with Craig Monroe in left, Curtis Granderson in center and Magglio Ordonez in right. Ordonez earned a spot in Tiger lore with his pennant-winning home run, but with three guaranteed years left on his contract, the Tigers sure hope there are more big moments to come. As for Granderson, the Tigers would like to see him cut down on a high strikeout total, and they would also like to decide if it would help their lineup to move him out of the leadoff spot. Monroe always seems to be talked about as a potential trading chip, but he also always seems to be getting a big hit the Tigers need.

Catching Pudge Rodriguez said last summer that he'd like to finish his career as a Tiger, and he didn't mean that he wants to finish it this season. With the guaranteed part of his four-year, $40 million contract coming to an end after 2007, this will be a big year for Rodriguez. The Tigers will watch him closely, with the knowledge that he'll turn 36 in November but also that he's still an All-Star. He doesn't like to take many days off, but the Tigers feel so comfortable with backup Vance Wilson that they signed him to a two-year extension.

DH/Bench Sheffield says he's on board with the plan to use him primarily as a DH, and for now that figures to be his job for the next three seasons. That should give Sheffield plenty of time to hit the 45 home runs he needs for 500 in his career. Sheffield can still play the outfield, which should allow manager Jim Leyland to give Ordonez and possibly even Monroe a few days as DH. Leyland would like to be able to make use of his bench, too, but he really wishes he had a left-handed bat there to go to. What he does have are several quality utility infielders, and Marcus Thames, who at times last year demonstrated impressive power.

Management Dave Dombrowski and Leyland brought a World Series to Florida, and now they've brought one to Detroit, too. And this time, they have an owner who wants to keep the team together. Mike Ilitch also wants to keep his management team together, so days after the World Series he announced that he had extended Dombrowski's contract through 2011. The 62-year-old Leyland may or may not last that long as manager, but he's signed through 2008 and plans to continue at least that long. That's good news for the Tigers; Leyland may well have been the most important person wearing a Tiger uniform last year.

Final Analysis Can they do it again? Before you answer that, remember that you never expected the Tigers to do it the first time. Getting back to the World Series won't be easy, but with their pitching and their improved offense, no one should be surprised if the Tigers do get back there. One thing is certain: No one is going to ask whether they can finish over .500.

FANTASY TICKER

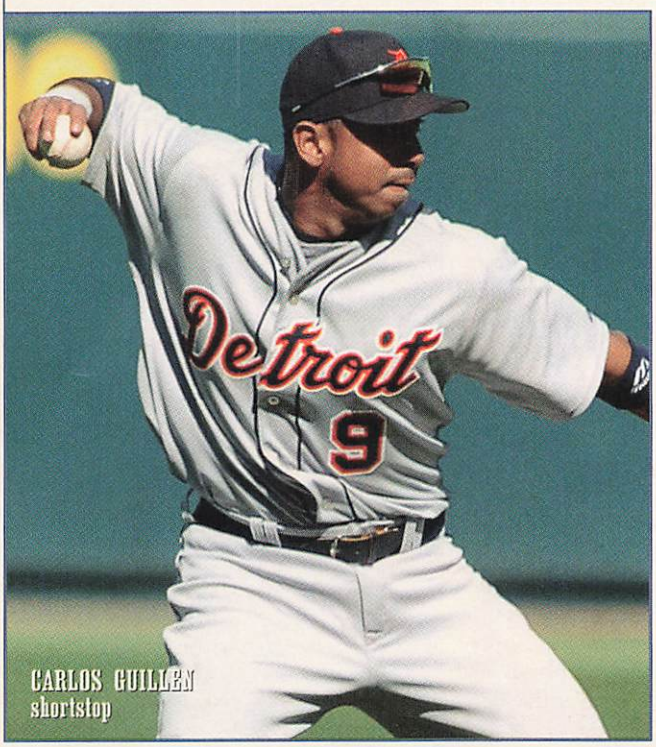
Blue Chip Bopper: Carlos Guillen
High-Dividend Hurler: Jeremy Bonderman
Buy Recommendation: Curtis Granderson
Sell Recommendation: Todd Jones
Medical (In)Securities: Joel Zumaya
IPO: LHP Andrew Miller
Futures Market: OF Cameron Maybin
Insider Tip: Zumaya soon will depose Jones as closer.

STATLINE

Fewest Walks by a Career .300 Hitter

1. Stuffy McInnis 380
2. **Ivan Rodriguez 437**
3. George Sisler 472
4. Heinie Manush 506
5. Nap Lajoie 516

(minimum 2,000 games)



CARLOS GUILLEN
shortstop

STATISTICIAN

- 12 Consecutive losing seasons for the Tigers before 2006.
- 7 Consecutive postseason wins for the Tigers before the World Series.
- .529 Sean Casey's batting average in the World Series.
- .160 World Series batting average for all other Tigers.
- 19 Home runs by Tiger ninth-place hitters, second in majors.
- 26 Home runs by Tiger cleanup hitters, 22nd in majors.
- 5 Postseason home runs by Craig Monroe, tying Hank Greenberg for the Tiger career record.
- 16 Tiger shutouts in 2006, most in majors.
- 2 Tiger shutouts in 2005, 29th in majors.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Even as they made their surprising run to the World Series in 2006, the Tigers believed they needed another big hitter in the middle of the lineup. They tried unsuccessfully to trade for one last July but found the one they wanted just days after the end of the World Series, when they completed a deal with the New York Yankees for **Gary Sheffield**. Sheffield helped Jim Leyland and Dave Dombrowski win a World Series in 1997 in Florida, and now they hope he's the piece to put them over the top in Detroit.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

THE RETURN OF NO. 3? Yes, No. 3 will be back in the Tiger lineup in 2007, but it won't be Alan Trammell. Gary Sheffield asked for 3 when he was traded to the Tigers, and they allowed him to be the first player since Trammell to wear the number. Trammell gave Sheffield his backing. "Gary Sheffield is an excellent player, and I think he was a great acquisition by the Tigers," Trammell said. "If he wants to wear my number, I'm honored."

THE ARRIVAL OF NO. 500? Sheffield has 455 career home runs, which is already the second-most of any player in Tiger history. With a three-year contract, he should become the first player ever to hit a 500th career home run while wearing a Tiger uniform.

THE ARRIVAL OF 2.6 MILLION — OR MORE The Tigers set a Comerica Park attendance record in 2006, and they figure to have a good chance to break it this year. Could they challenge the club record of 2,704,794? Perhaps, but it would require the Tigers to average 33,400 fans a night in a 41,070-seat ballpark.

MARILYN MONROE IN THE HOUSE At least until Magglio Ordonez hit the game-winning home run that put the Tigers into the World Series, the most magical homer of the Tigers' magical season came on Aug. 30 in New York, when Craig Monroe's three-run shot in the ninth saved the Tigers from a doubleheader sweep. But what was really amazing was that Monroe's mother had come to New York to see the game, and her name really is Marilyn. "Marilyn Monroe is here," Craig Monroe said that night. "Marilyn Monroe is here in New York."

THE FARM SYSTEM

Guillen: John Rieger/US Presswire; Miller: David Stoner

2006 Top Draft Pick

If the New York Mets had made it to the World Series, **Andrew Miller** would have, too, and he would have become the first player to play in the College World Series and the World Series in the same year. The Mets didn't make it, and the Tigers decided they didn't need an extra lefthander, so Miller didn't, either. Even so, the Tigers were more than happy with their first-round draft pick, who made it to the big leagues by the end of August and showed off a 98 mph fastball and a nasty breaking ball. Miller will likely begin 2007 in the minor leagues, but the Tigers expect to see him again soon.

Prospects

OF Cameron Maybin 2005 first-round draft pick starred in Class A in 2006.

LHP Andrew Miller Hard-throwing lefthander went from College World Series to the big leagues in three-and-half months.

OF Brent Clevlen Doubled off Johan Santana in first big league at-bat.

RHP Jordan Tata Jumped from Class A to the big leagues in 2006.

RHP Jair Jurrjens Curacao native pitched at Double-A at age 20.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Jim Leyland **COACHES:** Rafael Belliard, Chuck Hernandez, Jeff Jones, Gene Lamont, Lloyd McClendon, Andy Van Slyke

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
38	Jeremy Bonderman	R-R	10/28/82	**DETROIT**	**14-8**	**4.08**	**34**	**0**	**214.0**	**202**
	Edward Campusano	L-L	7/14/82	West Tenn (AA)	2-1	1.75	18	4	25.2	34
				Peoria (A)	0-0	1.21	26	21	29.2	47
43	Roman Colon	R-R	8/13/79	**DETROIT**	**2-0**	**4.89**	**20**	**1**	**38.2**	**25**
				Toledo (AAA)	0-0	0.00	2	0	6.2	6
36	Eulogio De La Cruz	R-R	3/12/84	Toledo (AAA)	0-0	11.57	1	0	2.1	3
				Erie (AA)	5-6	3.43	38	2	105.0	87
52	Chad Durbin	S-R	12/3/77	**DETROIT**	**0-0**	**1.50**	**3**	**0**	**6.0**	**3**
				Toledo (AAA)	11-8	3.11	28	0	185.0	149
49	Jason Grilli	R-R	11/11/76	**DETROIT**	**2-3**	**4.21**	**51**	**0**	**62.0**	**31**
59	Todd Jones	L-R	4/24/68	**DETROIT**	**2-6**	**3.94**	**62**	**37**	**64.0**	**28**
60	Preston Larrison	R-R	11/19/80	Toledo (AAA)	1-0	1.74	6	0	10.1	3
				Erie (AA)	4-10	3.92	26	1	105.2	48
41	Wilfredo Ledezma	L-L	1/21/81	**DETROIT**	**3-3**	**3.58**	**24**	**0**	**60.1**	**39**
				Toledo (AAA)	4-3	2.52	12	0	71.1	66
46	Mike Maroth	L-L	8/17/77	**DETROIT**	**5-2**	**4.19**	**13**	**0**	**53.2**	**24**
				Toledo (AAA)	3-0	4.50	4	0	20.0	11
	Jose Mesa	R-R	5/22/66	**COLORADO**	**1-5**	**3.86**	**79**	**1**	**72.1**	**39**
50	Andrew Miller	R-L	5/21/85	**DETROIT**	**0-1**	**6.10**	**8**	**0**	**10.1**	**6**
				Lakeland (A)	0-0	0.00	3	0	5.0	9
31	Zach Miner	R-R	3/12/82	**DETROIT**	**7-6**	**4.84**	**27**	**0**	**93.0**	**59**
				Toledo (AAA)	6-0	2.82	9	0	51.0	40
29	Nate Robertson	R-L	9/3/77	**DETROIT**	**13-13**	**3.84**	**32**	**0**	**208.2**	**137**
56	Fernando Rodney	R-R	3/18/77	**DETROIT**	**7-4**	**3.52**	**63**	**7**	**71.2**	**65**
37	Kenny Rogers	L-L	11/10/64	**DETROIT**	**17-8**	**3.84**	**34**	**0**	**204.0**	**99**
44	Kyle Sleeth	R-R	12/20/81	Lakeland (A)	1-4	11.90	8	0	19.2	7
				GCL Tigers (R)	1-0	3.63	5	1	17.1	17
53	Jordan Tata	R-R	9/20/81	**DETROIT**	**0-0**	**6.14**	**8**	**0**	**14.2**	**6**
				Toledo (AAA)	10-6	3.84	21	0	122.0	86
	Virgil Vasquez	R-R	6/7/82	Erie (AA)	7-12	3.73	27	0	173.2	129
35	Justin Verlander	R-R	2/20/83	**DETROIT**	**17-9**	**3.63**	**30**	**0**	**186.0**	**124**
54	Joel Zumaya	R-R	11/9/84	**DETROIT**	**6-3**	**1.94**	**62**	**1**	**83.1**	**97**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
58	Mike Rabelo	S-R	1/17/80	**DETROIT**	**.000**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Toledo (AAA)	.270	38	137	19	3	22	1
				Erie (AA)	.277	62	213	31	6	28	2
7	Ivan Rodriguez	R-R	11/30/71	**DETROIT**	**.300**	**136**	**547**	**74**	**13**	**69**	**8**
13	Vance Wilson	R-R	3/17/73	**DETROIT**	**.283**	**56**	**152**	**18**	**5**	**18**	**0**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
21	Sean Casey	L-R	7/2/74	**DETROIT**	**.245**	**53**	**184**	**17**	**5**	**30**	**0**
				PITTSBURGH	**.296**	**59**	**213**	**30**	**3**	**29**	**0**
				Altoona (AA)	.273	3	11	1	1	2	0
	Tony Giarratano	S-R	11/29/82	Erie (AA)	.283	67	269	35	0	19	16
9	Carlos Guillen	S-R	9/30/75	**DETROIT**	**.320**	**153**	**543**	**100**	**19**	**85**	**20**
20	Omar Infante	R-R	12/26/81	**DETROIT**	**.277**	**78**	**224**	**35**	**4**	**25**	**3**
15	Brandon Inge	R-R	5/19/77	**DETROIT**	**.253**	**159**	**542**	**83**	**27**	**83**	**7**
	Kody Kirkland	R-R	6/9/83	Toledo (AAA)	.176	4	17	1	0	1	0
				Erie (AA)	.217	119	428	61	22	65	9
8	Neifi Perez	S-R	6/2/73	**DETROIT**	**.200**	**21**	**65**	**4**	**0**	**5**	**1**
				CHICAGO NL	**.254**	**87**	**236**	**27**	**2**	**24**	**0**
14	Placido Polanco	R-R	10/10/75	**DETROIT**	**.295**	**110**	**461**	**58**	**4**	**52**	**1**
39	Ramon Santiago	S-R	8/31/79	**DETROIT**	**.225**	**43**	**80**	**9**	**0**	**3**	**2**
				Toledo (AAA)	.253	25	83	13	2	12	2
26	Chris Shelton	R-R	6/26/80	**DETROIT**	**.273**	**115**	**373**	**50**	**16**	**47**	**1**
				Toledo (AAA)	.266	28	109	20	3	14	1

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
24	Brent Clevlen	R-R	10/27/83	**DETROIT**	**.282**	**31**	**39**	**9**	**3**	**6**	**0**
				Erie (AA)	.230	109	395	47	11	45	6
28	Curtis Granderson	L-R	3/16/81	**DETROIT**	**.260**	**159**	**596**	**90**	**19**	**68**	**8**
27	Craig Monroe	R-R	2/27/77	**DETROIT**	**.255**	**147**	**541**	**89**	**28**	**92**	**2**
30	Magglio Ordonez	R-R	1/28/74	**DETROIT**	**.298**	**155**	**593**	**82**	**24**	**104**	**1**
3	Gary Sheffield	R-R	11/18/68	**NEW YORK AL**	**.298**	**39**	**151**	**22**	**6**	**25**	**5**
				Trenton (AA)	.333	1	3	0	0	1	0
33	Marcus Thames	R-R	3/6/77	**DETROIT**	**.256**	**110**	**348**	**61**	**26**	**60**	**1**

Kansas City Royals

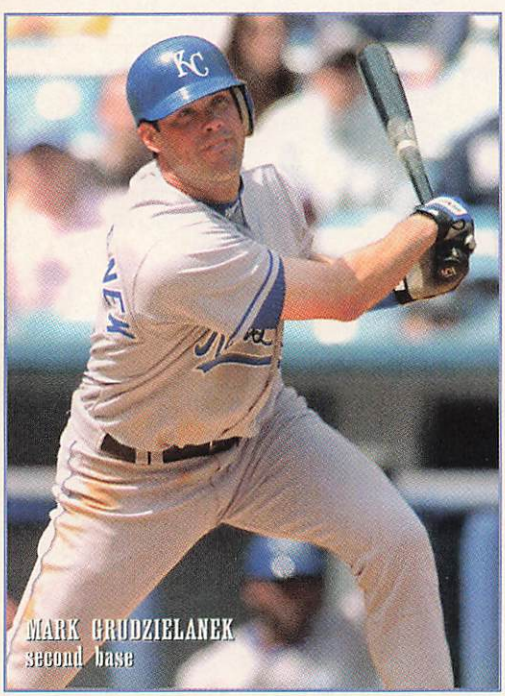
2007 Prediction: 5th

2006 Finish: 62–100

AL Central

What's this? The Royals spending money? Atlanta-trained Dayton Moore spiced his first offseason as general manager by prying open owner David Glass' wallet for some eye-popping — and risky — personnel moves in an effort to resuscitate a franchise coming off its fourth 100-loss season in five years. The biggest gamble is that Gil Meche will realize his immense potential over the next five years, develop into a genuine staff leader and justify a breathtaking $55 million outlay. Moore also continued to dismantle the previous regime's collection of promising-but-underperforming arms. Gone are Ambiorix Burgos, Andrew Sisco and Runelvys Hernandez. That follows last summer's departures of Jeremy Affeldt and Denny Bautista at the trade deadline. "We're asking our fans to continue to be patient," Moore says, "but I'm not asking them to be patient with us losing 100 games again next year. I don't want to ever have a losing season again. Ever."

Rotation Nobody returns from the group that began the 2006 season. That's probably a good thing for a unit that posted a wretched 5.85 ERA, but there are questions galore. Can Meche justify the hope that, at 28, he is poised to blossom into a dominant No. 1 starter? He won more than 11 games only once in his six seasons in Seattle, which made no effort to retain him despite its own glaring need for starting pitchers. Veteran lefty Odalis Perez and righthander Luke Hudson seem certain to occupy the next two slots. Perez was 2–4 in 12 starts after arriving in July from the Dodgers, but he is in the walk year of his contract and figures to be highly motivated. Hudson was 6–3 last year after joining the rotation and saw six more victories slip away when the bullpen blew late leads. The final two slots, barring a late addition, should center on a three-way battle between lefty Jorge De La Rosa and righthanders Zack Greinke and Brian Bannister. De La Rosa is a power arm with intriguing potential. Greinke seems to have licked the psychological issues that derailed his career a year ago.


MARK GRUDZIELANEK
second base

Bullpen The relief corps also got an offseason makeover when the Royals landed veteran Octavio Dotel to serve as their closer, lured lefty John Bale back from Japan with a two-year contract and signed righty David Riske to a one-year deal with an option for 2008. Dotel is another gamble, albeit a short-term one with a one-year contract at $5 million. He hasn't pitched a full season since 2004 because of reconstructive elbow surgery and was inconsistent last season in 14 appearances for the Yankees. Nonetheless, he is the closer. The Royals' 31 blown saves were the most of any team. Riske projects as the primary right-handed setup man. The addition of Bale alongside lefty Jimmy Gobble made Sisco and his 7.10 ERA expendable. Off he went to the White Sox for veteran reserve Ross Gload. That deal came just a few days after the Royals shipped out Burgos, who blew 12 of 30 save opportunities in 2006. Rule 5 pick Joakim Soria threw a perfect game last winter in the Mexican Pacific League and arrives with a reputation as a strike-thrower. That ensures a long look this spring in a unit that issued more walks last season than any other bullpen. Club officials like Todd Wellemeyer, who will work as a starter in spring training but projects as a swingman.

Middle Infield Second baseman Mark Grudzielanek batted .297 and, for the first time in his career, won a Gold Glove. He also became the first player to buy into Moore's plan by signing a contract extension in August. Angel Berroa remains the shortstop almost by default after stumbling through a dreadful summer in which all phases of game deteriorated. He spent the winter cloistered in Kansas City with a personal trainer in an effort to regain some quickness and flexibility. "He's got to play better, period," manager Buddy Bell says. "But first, he's got to play better defensively."

Corners The official word is third baseman Alex Gordon, picked last season as Baseball America's Minor League Player of the Year, must win a job in spring training. Privately, everybody in the organization expects him to do so. That means Mark Teahen, the club's player of the year, figures to shift to the outfield as he recovers from shoulder surgery. Ryan Shealy firmly established himself as the club's first baseman by batting .280 with seven homers and 36 RBIs in 51 games after arriving July 31 in a trade from Colorado.

Outfield Plans call for David DeJesus to shift back to center field on a full-time basis after a tour in left last season following the acquisition of speedy Joey Gathright from Tampa Bay. That seems to ensure backup duty for Gathright — if he makes the club. He has an option remaining and figures to battle Shane Costa for the final roster spot. The corners are in flux. Teahen will man one of them, probably right field, because

STATLINE

Parks with Most Runs/G, 2006

1.	**Kauffman Stadium (KC)**	**11.40**
2.	Coors Field (Col)	10.73
3.	Citizens Bank Park (Phil)	10.67
4.	U.S. Cellular Field (ChiSox)	10.53
5.	Ameriquest Field (Texas)	10.38

the Royals want to move Emil Brown back to left. But Moore spent the winter shopping Brown and veteran Reggie Sanders, so things could change.

Catching The acquisition of catcher Jason LaRue from Cincinnati effectively put John Buck on notice. Buck's defense dipped last season, and his offensive production remains maddeningly inconsistent. LaRue is no long-term answer at 33 and is coming off an injury-plagued season that limited him to 72 games. Still, he has a solid reputation for handling pitchers. That could be enough to win the starting job.

DH/Bench All fingers are crossed, as always, that this is the season that Mike Sweeney finally stays healthy. Last year a bulging cervical disk limited him to only 60 games. He insists he's healthy, but that's a familiar offseason refrain, and the Royals aren't really buying it. Utilityman Esteban German is a defensive liability, but he batted .326 with a .422 on-base percentage in 106 games. Too bad he can't play short. In contrast, Gload is a good defensive first baseman who is also serviceable in the outfield. He batted .327 last season in 77 games for the White Sox.

Management Bell appears fully recovered from a late September operation to remove a cancerous growth from his throat. "I hope I don't have to go through it again," he said, "but people go through a lot worse." The coaching staff returns intact.

Final Analysis Moore has done his best to shake the malaise out of the organization. He bolstered the scouting department, reenergized the commitment to scouting the Caribbean and added a seventh minor league affiliate. Several trades and the willingness to gamble in the free agent market energized the dwindling fan base and, perhaps more important, everyone with the club. "I know the fans are excited," Sweeney says, "and that's great. You need that. But the players are also excited, and that's a tribute to what Dayton Moore and the Glass family have done this winter." It might not work, but least they're trying.

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Mark Teahen
High-Dividend Hurler: Octavio Dotel
Buy Recommendation: Ryan Shealy
Sell Recommendation: Emil Brown
Medical (In)Securities: Mike Sweeney
IPO: 3B Alex Gordon
Futures Market: OF Billy Butler
Insider Tip: Rookie Gordon will be an instant smash.

STATISTICIAN

11 Victories by Mark Redman in 2006, the most by a K.C. pitcher since Paul Byrd had 17 in '02.
10–8 The Royals' record in interleague play. It was their first winning effort against the National League since going 9–7 in 1998.
5.65 The Royals' team ERA in 2006, the highest mark in club history and in the highest in all of baseball for the second straight year.
18 Homers by Mark Teahen, the lowest club-leading total since Mike Macfarlane hit 17 in 1992.
310 Losses by the Royals over the last three years.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

There's no way, probably, that third baseman **Alex Gordon** can meet the expectations heaped upon him — especially when they keep rising. Still, there's no doubt that Gordon, 23, is special after pulling off an unprecedented double: consensus collegiate Player of the Year in 2005 at Nebraska and consensus Minor League Player of the Year last summer while tearing up the Class AA Texas League at Wichita. No position player has generated a similar buzz in moving through the Royals' system since Bo Jackson. *Baseball America* cites him as the game's top prospect while raving "there's little that Gordon can't do offensively."

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

CF David DeJesus
Signed a five-year deal last March; shifting back to center.

2B Mark Grudzielanek
Reliable veteran with a .288 career BA who solidifies the defense.

RF Mark Teahen
Will shift from third to outfield to open a spot for Alex Gordon.

DH Mike Sweeney
Oft-injured star entering the final season of his five-year contract.

3B Alex Gordon
Has the potential to be the face of the franchise.

LF Emil Brown
Led club in RBIs in each of the last two years.

1B Ryan Shealy
Nice two-month debut last season after arriving from Colorado.

C Jason LaRue
Knee surgery limited him to 72 games last season in Cincy.

SS Angel Berroa
Has one more year to prove he can reverse his skidding career.

BENCH

C John Buck
No longer the club's long-term answer at catcher.

1B/OF Ross Gload
A dependable lefty bat off the bench who can play the outfield.

UT Esteban German
Spent winter playing the outfield in an effort to bolster his value.

OF Reggie Sanders
Royals would love to trade him — and his $5 million salary.

OF Joey Gathright
With DeJesus back in center, Gathright is on the bench.

ROTATION

RHP Gil Meche
The pressure will be on to deliver like an ace.

LHP Odalis Perez
Can position himself for another big contract with solid year.

RHP Luke Hudson
Take away one bad outing and his ERA as a starter was 3.81.

LHP Jorge De La Rosa
His potential has tantalized other teams in the past.

RHP Zack Greinke
Still young enough at 23 to re-establish himself as a star.

BULLPEN

RHP Octavio Dotel
Royals banking he's back after Tommy John surgery in 2005.

RHP David Riske
Brings a little attitude to role as right-handed setup man.

LHP John Bale
Slotted for setup role after spending last three years in Japan.

LHP Jimmy Gobble
Shift to bullpen enabled him to boost K ratio: 80 in 84 IP.

RHP Todd Wellemeyer
A power arm whose role is uncertain.

RHP Joakim Soria
Rule 5 pick put together an amazing winter in Mexico.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Buddy Bell **COACHES:** Mike Barnett, Bill Doran, Fred Kendall, Bob McClure, Brian Poldberg, Luis Silverio

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
	John Bale	L-L	5/22/74	Hiroshima (Jap.)	1-2	2.93	39	6	43.0	46
	Brian Bannister	R-R	2/28/81	**NEW YORK NL**	**2-1**	**4.26**	**8**	**0**	**38.0**	**19**
				Norfolk (AAA)	3-3	3.86	6	0	30.1	24
				St. Lucie (A)	1-0	1.50	2	0	12.0	9
47	Ryan Braun	R-R	7/29/80	**KANSAS CITY**	**0-1**	**6.75**	**9**	**0**	**10.2**	**6**
				Omaha (AAA)	0-2	2.16	17	3	25.0	22
				Wichita (AA)	1-6	2.21	26	10	40.2	58
	Danny Christensen	L-L	8/10/83	High Desert (A)	6-6	4.89	28	0	162.0	153
36	Jorge De La Rosa	L-L	4/5/81	**KANSAS CITY**	**3-4**	**5.18**	**10**	**0**	**48.2**	**36**
				MILWAUKEE	**2-2**	**8.60**	**18**	**0**	**30.1**	**31**
				Huntsville (AA)	3-1	2.40	6	0	30.0	23
29	Octavio Dotel	R-R	11/25/73	**NEW YORK AL**	**0-0**	**10.80**	**14**	**0**	**10.0**	**7**
				Columbus (AAA)	0-0	3.38	5	0	5.1	8
				Trenton (AA)	0-0	0.00	2	0	2.0	3
				Tampa (A)	0-0	0.00	2	0	2.1	2
				GCL Yankees (R)	0-0	0.00	3	0	3.0	6
37	Scott Elarton	R-R	2/23/76	**KANSAS CITY**	**4-9**	**5.34**	**20**	**0**	**114.2**	**49**
41	Jimmy Gobble	L-L	7/19/81	**KANSAS CITY**	**4-6**	**5.14**	**60**	**2**	**84.0**	**80**
23	Zack Greinke	R-R	10/21/83	Wichita (AA)	8-3	4.34	18	0	105.2	94
	Luke Hochevar	R-R	5/2/83	Burlington (A)	0-1	1.17	4	0	15.1	16
34	Luke Hudson	R-R	5/2/77	**KANSAS CITY**	**7-6**	**5.12**	**26**	**0**	**102.0**	**64**
				Omaha (AAA)	2-0	2.80	13	1	35.1	21
55	Gill Meche	R-R	9/8/78	**SEATTLE**	**11-8**	**4.48**	**32**	**0**	**186.2**	**156**
	Neal Musser	L-L	8/25/80	Tucson (AAA)	1-3	5.45	8	0	36.1	18
				Omaha (AAA)	1-0	1.86	2	0	9.2	6
				Wichita (AA)	6-3	4.95	18	2	83.2	67
55	Joe Nelson	R-R	10/25/74	**KANSAS CITY**	**1-1**	**4.43**	**43**	**9**	**44.2**	**44**
				Omaha (AAA)	2-2	1.97	24	7	32.0	39
43	Leo Nunez	R-R	8/14/83	**KANSAS CITY**	**0-0**	**4.73**	**7**	**0**	**13.1**	**7**
				Omaha (AAA)	2-2	2.13	23	5	38.0	33
				Wichita (AA)	1-2	4.29	15	3	21.0	22
57	Joel Peralta	R-R	3/23/76	**KANSAS CITY**	**1-3**	**4.40**	**64**	**1**	**73.2**	**57**
				Omaha (AAA)	1-0	2.35	6	2	7.2	8
45	Odalis Perez	L-L	6/11/77	**KANSAS CITY**	**2-4**	**5.64**	**12**	**0**	**67.0**	**48**
				LOS ANGELES NL	**4-4**	**6.83**	**20**	**0**	**59.1**	**33**
38	Kenny Ray	R-R	11/27/74	**ATLANTA**	**1-1**	**4.52**	**69**	**5**	**67.2**	**50**
	David Riske	R-R	10/23/76	**BOSTON**	**0-1**	**3.72**	**8**	**0**	**9.2**	**5**
				CHICAGO AL	**1-1**	**3.93**	**33**	**0**	**34.1**	**23**
	Carlos Rosa	R-R	9/21/84	Burlington (A)	8-6	2.53	24	0	138.2	102
				High Desert (A)	0-1	7.15	3	0	11.1	13
	Joakim Soria	R-R	5/18/84	Mexico City (Mex.)	0-0	3.89	39	15	37.0	30
				Ft. Wayne (A)	1-0	2.31	7	2	11.2	11
56	Todd Wellemeyer	R-R	8/30/78	**KANSAS CITY**	**1-2**	**3.63**	**28**	**1**	**57.0**	**37**
				FLORIDA	**0-2**	**5.48**	**18**	**0**	**21.1**	**17**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
14	John Buck	R-R	7/7/80	**KANSAS CITY**	**.245**	**114**	**371**	**37**	**11**	**50**	**0**
23	Jason LaRue	R-R	3/19/74	**CINCINNATI**	**.194**	**72**	**191**	**22**	**8**	**21**	**1**
				Louisville (AAA)	.250	2	8	1	0	0	0
				Sarasota (A)	.167	3	12	1	0	1	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
4	Angel Berroa	R-R	1/27/78	**KANSAS CITY**	**.234**	**132**	**474**	**45**	**9**	**54**	**3**
13	Andres Blanco	S-R	4/11/84	**KANSAS CITY**	**.241**	**33**	**87**	**9**	**0**	**9**	**0**
				Omaha (AAA)	.237	88	283	30	2	20	6
3	Esteban German	R-R	1/26/78	**KANSAS CITY**	**.326**	**106**	**279**	**44**	**3**	**34**	**7**
17	Ross Gload	L-L	4/5/76	**CHICAGO AL**	**.327**	**77**	**156**	**22**	**3**	**18**	**6**
	Alex Gordon	L-R	2/10/84	Wichita (AA)	.325	130	486	111	29	101	22
15	Mark Grudzielanek	R-R	6/30/70	**KANSAS CITY**	**.297**	**134**	**548**	**85**	**7**	**52**	**3**
7	Justin Huber	R-R	7/1/82	**KANSAS CITY**	**.200**	**5**	**10**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**1**
				Omaha (AAA)	.278	100	352	47	15	44	2
7	Angel Sanchez	R-R	9/20/83	**KANSAS CITY**	**.222**	**8**	**27**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**0**
				Wichita (AA)	.282	133	542	105	4	57	8
39	Ryan Shealy	R-R	8/29/79	**KANSAS CITY**	**.280**	**51**	**193**	**29**	**7**	**36**	**1**
				COLORADO	**.222**	**5**	**9**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**0**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	.284	58	222	37	15	55	0
29	Mike Sweeney	R-R	7/22/73	**KANSAS CITY**	**.258**	**60**	**217**	**23**	**8**	**33**	**2**
				Omaha (AAA)	.333	5	15	3	1	4	0
				Wichita (AA)	.385	4	13	3	2	5	0
				Burlington (A)	.143	2	7	2	0	1	0
24	Mark Teahen	L-R	9/6/81	**KANSAS CITY**	**.290**	**109**	**393**	**70**	**18**	**69**	**10**
				Omaha (AAA)	.380	24	79	14	2	14	0

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
35	Emil Brown	R-R	12/29/74	**KANSAS CITY**	**.287**	**147**	**527**	**77**	**15**	**81**	**6**
32	Shane Costa	L-R	12/12/81	**KANSAS CITY**	**.274**	**72**	**237**	**23**	**3**	**23**	**2**
				Omaha (AAA)	.342	52	199	35	10	29	4
				Wichita (AA)	.375	2	8	0	0	1	0
9	David DeJesus	L-L	12/20/79	**KANSAS CITY**	**.295**	**119**	**491**	**83**	**8**	**56**	**6**
				Omaha (AAA)	.385	3	13	0	0	2	0
1	Joey Gathright	L-R	4/27/81	**KANSAS CITY**	**.262**	**79**	**229**	**34**	**1**	**28**	**10**
				TAMPA BAY	**.201**	**55**	**154**	**25**	**0**	**13**	**12**
				Durham (AAA)	.258	10	31	5	0	1	6
22	Mitch Maier	L-R	6/30/82	Wichita (AA)	.306	138	543	95	14	92	13
16	Reggie Sanders	R-R	12/1/67	**KANSAS CITY**	**.246**	**88**	**325**	**45**	**11**	**49**	**7**

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

THE MECHE DEAL General manager Dayton Moore insists the Royals weren't sending a message — even if that was the inevitable result — by shelling out $55 million to righthander Gil Meche over the next five years. In fact, Moore contends, "The guy is a difference-maker." Moore also says he was "relieved when they asked about the fifth year. We wanted to do that. That's how much we believe in the type of pitcher he's going to be."

ANGRY BELL Manager Buddy Bell Bell was sufficiently recovered to lash back at Toronto general manager J.P. Ricciardi in December after Ricciardi appeared to question Meche's competitiveness by choosing to sign with the Royals. "He's a little guy with a big mouth and all he does is whine," Bell said. "He knows nothing of our situation. You've got to be kidding me. Every time I hear this guy talk, all he's doing is whining."

GOLDEN CHILD Second baseman Mark Grudzielanek, usually so professionally reserved, couldn't hide his satisfaction at receiving the first Gold Glove of his career. "I thought I had a great year in Chicago (in 2004)," he said. "I thought I had an even better year last year in St. Louis."

GREINKE'S ISSUES Righthander Zack Greinke, once hailed as the next Greg Maddux, departed spring camp in late February and spent more than eight weeks undergoing psychiatric counseling for undisclosed psychological issues. Greinke resumed workouts in April and spent most of the year at Class AA Wichita before joining the Royals for three late-season relief appearances. He contends progress is tangible. "When I go to the field," Greinke says, "I enjoy every day now."

THE FARM SYSTEM

Bill Mitchell

2006 Top Draft Pick

Righthander **Luke Hochevar**, 23, was the first overall pick last June and immediately became the organization's top pitching prospect. His arsenal includes a fastball with life that works in the low 90s and a plus curve that can paralyze hitters with late break. His changeup, at this point, is pretty much just for show. Hochevar, who played collegiately at Tennessee, pitched well in a brief minor league tour after signing in August but raised concerns when he exited the Arizona Fall League because of shoulder stiffness. Club officials say the injury isn't serious, but he'll be watched closely in spring training.

Prospects

OF Billy Butler Viewed by many as a better pure hitting prospect than Alex Gordon; defense is a major issue.

LHP Tyler Lumsden Bounced back strong after undergoing surgery in 2005 to remove bone chips from elbow.

SS Angel Sanchez Draws mixed opinions from club officials; some see him as a potential starter by 2008.

LHP Brent Fisher Someone to watch, at 19, after two dominating seasons in short-season ball.

RHP Billy Buckner Blossomed late last season into a top-tier prospect; still needs better command.

Minnesota Twins

2007 Prediction: 3rd

2006 Finish: 96–66

AL Central

The Twins' sprint to the AL Central title last year was a testament to organizational depth, patience and resilience; their winter proved just how much they'll have to continue to rely on those traits. Blown out financially in competition for free agents, they'll be forced to win with young talent again in a continually improving division.

Rotation The goal heading into the winter was to land a veteran who could replace the retiring Brad Radke as a reliable No. 2 starter behind perennial Cy Young candidate Johan Santana. The Twins were shut out of the market and were forced to turn to the strength of their organization — young arms. They picked up the option on Carlos Silva's contract, hoping his woeful 2006 season was an aberration. After Santana and Silva are the youngsters who will be asked to mature quickly — Boof Bonser, Matt Garza, Glen Perkins, Kevin Slowey and Scott Baker. Relying on young pitching is risky, but the Twins believe their kids are more talented than many of the veterans getting ridiculous paychecks on the open market. Pitching coach Rick Anderson will have to work his magic again.

Bullpen Every year, the bullpen looks like a weakness in spring training and becomes the team's strength by the end of the season. Exceptional closer Joe Nathan anchors a deep group of arms that includes two potential setup men in Juan Rincon and Jesse Crain, and two excellent specialists in lefty Dennys Reyes and righty submariner Pat Neshek. Rincon faltered a bit in 2006, and Crain has yet to become the dominator the Twins expect him to be. One of the two needs to take charge of the setup job. Because the organization is so well-stocked with quality arms, the Twins are one of the few teams that pack the bottom of their bullpen with useful pitchers. Longtime prospect J.D. Durbin, who has excellent stuff, could fill out the bullpen or compete for a spot in the rotation.

Middle Infield Jason Bartlett was the subject of much internal debate heading into last spring training. The development staff thought he should be the shortstop and the field staff wanted sure-handed but limited veteran Juan Castro. Score one for the organizational people. Castro had no range or power; Bartlett displayed excellent range, a strong arm and was a constant threat at the bottom of the order. The Twins have their shortstop for years to come, and second baseman Luis Castillo proved his reputation is accurate — when his team is lousy, he loses focus; when his team is good, he can be outstanding, making brilliant plays in the field and slapping hits to all fields at the top of the order. Castillo has a strong enough arm to make plays on balls up the middle. The Twins want him to draw more walks.

Corners Nick Punto was the most surprising individual story of the season, transforming himself from an injury-prone utility infielder into an Iron Man at third. He'll never hit for the kind of power teams crave at the corners, but his fielding, range, arm, competitive at-bats and aggressive baserunning helped turn the season around after he replaced the tortoise-like Tony Batista. At first base, Justin Morneau overcame a terrible start to win the AL MVP Award, transforming a slap-and-run lineup into a dangerous group. Morneau was at his best in the clutch, and his fielding is no longer troublesome.

JOE MAUER
catcher

Otto Greule Jr./Getty Images

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

2B Luis Castillo
Doesn't run much but takes competitive at-bats, uses whole field.

3B Nick Punto
Classic slap-hitting, switch-hitting, hard-running No. 2 hitter.

C Joe Mauer
Won batting title last year, yet hardly looks like he's peaked.

RF Michael Cuddyer
Morneau could move here, but Twins like splitting lefties, righties.

1B Justin Morneau
Won MVP despite throwing away first two months of the season.

CF Torii Hunter
Needs to keep his legs healthy, get fielding back to former level.

DH Jason Kubel
Excellent young left-handed hitter, if he can get his legs healthy.

LF Rondell White
Needs to dominate left-handed pitching to balance the lineup.

SS Jason Bartlett
Good line-drive hitter, baserunner; has little room for improvement.

BENCH

SS Alexi Casilla
Should ease the burden on Bartlett at short.

OF Jason Tyner
Fleet, fundamentally-sound outfielder gave team a huge boost.

INF Jeff Cirillo
Primary right-handed pinch-hitter; will play at first, third or DH.

C Mike Redmond
Will produce offensively as long as he's not overused.

2B Luis Rodriguez
Twins might try to find a pure left-handed pinch-hitter instead.

ROTATION

LHP Johan Santana
Won two of last three Cy Young awards; finished third in '05.

RHP Matt Garza
High ERA last year obscured his value, improvement in Sept.

RHP Boof Bonser
Saved the rotation by improving vastly after being demoted.

RHP Carlos Silva
Were struggles a year ago due to the World Baseball Classic?

LHP Glen Perkins
A lefty with stuff and poise, he'll compete for fifth spot.

BULLPEN

RHP Joe Nathan
Added a dominant curve to dominant fastball and slider.

RHP Juan Rincon
Put up impressive numbers again but faded down the stretch.

RHP Jesse Crain
Has yet to meet expectations; potential setup man.

RHP Pat Neshek
Funky RHP thrived after call-up, wrote blogs about exploits.

LHP Dennys Reyes
Twins hope '06 wasn't an aberration.

RHP J.D. Durbin
Former top prospect still throws gas; could be the long man.

Outfield Michael Cuddyer finally emerged as a middle-of-the-order producer last year, and he's an excellent right fielder. He, along with Torii Hunter in center, give the Twins the deepest lineup they've had since their glory days, and Hunter and Cuddyer give them two outfielders who can run, throw, and are always willing to hustle and crash into fences. Both are streaky at the plate, but the Twins have learned to ride out the bad times and wait for the hot streaks. Left field is the question mark. The Twins re-signed Rondell White, whose shoulder problems made him an automatic out the first half of last season, hoping he'll produce more like the guy they saw in the second half. The Twins want Jason Kubel, an extremely promising hitter, to eventually take over here. But a troublesome knee could limit the youngster to DH. White has a weak arm but hustles to cut off balls, making him less of a liability than he would seem. Kubel has a strong arm but limited range.

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Joe Mauer
High-Dividend Hurler: Johan Santana
Buy Recommendation: Michael Cuddyer
Sell Recommendation: Luis Castillo
Medical (In)Securities: Luis Castillo
IPO: RHP Matt Garza
Futures Market: RHP Kevin Slowey
Insider Tip: Cuddyer will improve to the mid-30s in HRs.

Catching The Twins might have the best catching combo in baseball. Joe Mauer is an exceptional line drive hitter and defensive catcher who should improve his power production as he matures, although nobody wants to alter what might be baseball's purest swing to hurry that process. He shuts down running games, is good at blocking pitches and continues to progress at calling games. Mike Redmond is a key figure in the clubhouse and was almost as good as Mauer when he played last year. Redmond has helped speed Mauer's development with his mentoring, and the Twins rewarded him with a two-year contract extension.

DH/Bench Jeff Cirillo, who excels against left-handed pitching, will back up first, third and DH and pinch-hit, and former Royal Ken Harvey will get a shot to compete for at-bats in those spots. Alexi Casilla, Luis Rodriguez and Rule 5 draftee Alejandro Machado will compete for the utility infield jobs, with Punto eligible to help out in the middle. Kubel will DH until his knee is healthy, and Josh Rabe, Lew Ford and Jason Tyner, who proved invaluable last year, will compete for the backup outfield spots. Tyner did enough last year to believe he'll be on the Opening Day roster.

Management The Twins did their worst work in recent memory last winter and spring, signing Batista to play third, deciding Castro could play shortstop every day and relying on White to produce in the DH spot. They salvaged the season by shifting Punto to third and calling up Bartlett, allowing their strengths — a wealth of young talent and the patience to let that talent develop — to shine through. GM Terry Ryan has built a gold mine of young pitching talent and does more than can be expected with a limited payroll. Ron Gardenhire can be too impulsive on personnel and in-game moves, but his passion and enthusiasm helped rally the troops as the Twins outplayed everyone in baseball over the last four months.

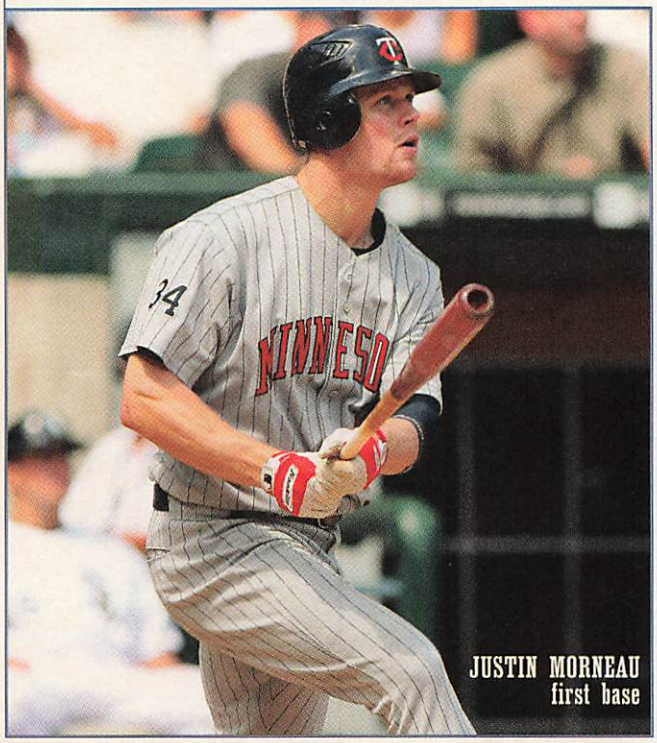
Final Analysis The Twins played their best in '06 when relying on unproven players like Bonser, Garza, Neshek, Reyes, Punto, Bartlett and Tyner, but they also possess a ton of star-quality talent. Mauer and Morneau could be perennial MVP candidates, Nathan is one of the game's top closers, Hunter is a dynamic player and Santana might be the best pitcher in the game. Because so many of their position players still have room to improve, the key will be the young starting pitchers. With Santana and Nathan, the Twins have the look of a team that would be scary to play in the postseason.

STATLINE

Biggest RBI Jump, 2005 to 2006

1. **Michael Cuddyer** **67**
2. Lance Berkman 54
3. **Justin Morneau** **51**
4. Freddy Sanchez 50
5. **Torii Hunter** **42**

(minimum 300 plate appearances)



JUSTIN MORNEAU
first base

STATISTICIAN

1 Number of days the Twins spent alone in first place in 2006 — the last afternoon of the season.

1987 The last time the Twins had a batter hit 30 home runs, before Justin Morneau and Torii Hunter did it in 2006.

1970 The last time the Twins had a player hit 40 homers, when Harmon Killebrew did it.

1–4 The Twins' record in playoff series this decade, including 0–4 since they beat the A's in the divisional round in 2002.

6 Number of teams since 1962 to have players claim the MVP, Cy Young and batting title in the same season, including the '06 Twins.

1 Number of teams since 1962 to have three different players win those awards — the 2006 Twins.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

This is unfair to say about a pitcher who has yet to complete a full season in the majors, but **Matt Garza** could be the difference between a division title and a lost season. Garza has the pitches to rise to No. 2 in the rotation, giving Johan Santana much-needed support and providing logical landing spots for Boof Bonser (No. 3), Carlos Silva (No. 4) and Kevin Slowey or Glen Perkins (No. 5). But he's still only 23 and has spent less than two months in the big leagues, and he had a 5.76 ERA last year, so counting on him is risky.

Morneau: Jerry Lai/US Presswire; Parmelee: David Stoner

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

TORII HUNTER WORKOUT PROGRAM Rondell White had the worst slump of his career during the first half of 2006. This was attributed to his unfamiliarity with the DH role and tightness in his surgically repaired left shoulder. Despite his tepid numbers, the Twins believe he'll thrive if he plays the outfield every day, so they re-signed him with the intent of making him their everyday left fielder. White spent the winter working out with Torii Hunter in Texas, hoping to improve his core strength, durability and speed.

HOUSE RULES Justin Morneau and Joe Mauer lived in Mauer's condo in St. Paul last year, and Morneau credited Mauer with helping him focus on baseball. Several other teammates crashed there as well, including shortstop Jason Bartlett, who, like his roomies, wound up hitting .300. "I wonder if they'd let me sleep on the couch," wondered catcher Mike Redmond. Morneau has since bought his own house.

MAUER HISTORY By going 2-for-4 on the last day of the season, Joe Mauer became the first American League catcher, the third catcher in history and the first catcher since 1942 to win a batting title.

HARDWAREFEST The Twins brought in the hardware last year. Terry Ryan was named Executive of the Year, Hunter won a Gold Glove, Morneau was the AL MVP, Johan Santana won his second Cy Young Award, Mauer won the AL batting title, and Ron Gardenhire was second in the AL Manager of the Year voting.

LITTLE FISH, BIG BITES Last year the Twins took delight in adopting a nickname given them by White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen, who, during a series at the Metrodome, called the Twins those "little 'bleeping' piranhas." The Twins quickly had "Piranha" t-shirts printed.

THE FARM SYSTEM

2006 Top Draft Pick

The Twins insist on making patience a bedrock of their organizational philosophy. That's why they drafted high school outfielder **Chris Parmelee**, even though their big league roster might have benefited more rapidly from the choice of a college player. Early reports indicate that Parmelee could be an impact bat at a corner outfield position. He hit .279 with eight homers in 45 games at the rookie league level last year. He'll probably start the year at low Class A. The Twins like to take it slow with youngsters, but if he can produce power, Parmelee could be in the majors within three or four years.

Prospects

CF Denard Span If he can break through at Triple-A, the Twins might allow Torii Hunter to leave after this season.

RHP Kevin Slowey He's reminiscent of a young Brad Radke, an excellent control pitcher with poise.

SS Alexi Casilla Has good hands, speed, range and strike-zone discipline; Twins need him to provide infield depth.

3B Matt Moses Top hitter, iron glove; he'll need to improve his defense if he wants to play the field in this organization.

RHP Anthony Swarzak He should be at Class AA this year, putting him on the doorstep to the majors.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Ron Gardenhire **COACHES:** Rick Anderson, Steve Liddle, Rick Stelmaszek, Scott Ullger, Joe Vavra, Jerry White

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
30	Scott Baker	R-R	9/19/81	**MINNESOTA**	**5-8**	**6.37**	**16**	**0**	**83.1**	**62**
				Rochester (AAA)	5-4	2.67	12	0	84.1	68
78	Ricky Barrett	L-L	3/9/81	Rochester (AAA)	5-1	3.42	27	1	47.1	49
26	Boof Bonser	R-R	10/14/81	**MINNESOTA**	**7-6**	**4.22**	**18**	**0**	**100.1**	**84**
				Rochester (AAA)	6-4	2.81	14	0	86.1	83
28	Jesse Crain	R-R	7/5/81	**MINNESOTA**	**4-5**	**3.52**	**68**	**1**	**76.2**	**60**
	Julio DePaula	R-R	12/31/82	New Britain (AA)	2-2	2.57	43	7	66.2	43
				Ft. Myers (A)	1-1	0.00	8	3	15.1	10
31	J.D. Durbin	R-R	2/24/82	Rochester (AAA)	4-3	2.33	16	0	89.0	81
21	Matt Garza	R-R	11/26/83	**MINNESOTA**	**3-6**	**5.76**	**10**	**0**	**50.0**	**38**
				Rochester (AAA)	3-1	1.85	5	0	34.0	33
				New Britain (AA)	6-2	2.51	10	0	57.1	68
				Ft. Myers (A)	5-1	1.42	8	0	44.1	53
54	Matt Guerrier	R-R	8/2/78	**MINNESOTA**	**1-0**	**3.36**	**39**	**1**	**69.2**	**37**
				New Britain (AA)	2-0	1.04	4	0	8.2	10
47	Francisco Liriano	L-L	10/26/83	**MINNESOTA**	**12-3**	**2.16**	**28**	**1**	**121.0**	**144**
74	Jose Mijares	L-L	10/29/84	Ft. Myers (A)	3-5	3.57	27	0	63.0	77
36	Joe Nathan	R-R	11/22/74	**MINNESOTA**	**7-0**	**1.58**	**64**	**36**	**68.1**	**95**
17	Pat Neshek	S-R	9/4/80	**MINNESOTA**	**4-2**	**2.19**	**32**	**0**	**37.0**	**53**
				Rochester (AAA)	6-2	1.95	33	14	60.0	87
60	Glen Perkins	L-L	3/2/83	**MINNESOTA**	**0-0**	**1.59**	**4**	**0**	**5.2**	**6**
				Rochester (AAA)	0-1	2.08	1	0	4.1	3
				New Britain (AA)	4-11	3.91	23	0	117.1	131
37	Dennys Reyes	R-L	4/19/77	**MINNESOTA**	**5-0**	**0.89**	**66**	**0**	**50.2**	**49**
				Rochester (AAA)	1-0	0.50	4	0	18.0	13
39	Juan Rincon	R-R	1/23/79	**MINNESOTA**	**3-1**	**2.91**	**75**	**1**	**74.1**	**65**
57	Johan Santana	L-L	3/13/79	**MINNESOTA**	**19-6**	**2.77**	**34**	**0**	**233.2**	**245**
52	Carlos Silva	R-R	4/23/79	**MINNESOTA**	**11-15**	**5.94**	**36**	**0**	**180.1**	**70**
76	Errol Simonitsch	L-L	8/24/82	New Britain (AA)	8-14	4.48	27	0	148.2	89
	Alexander Smit	L-L	10/2/85	Beloit (A)	7-2	2.99	34	0	108.1	141
	Oswaldo Sosa	R-R	9/19/85	Beloit (A)	9-7	2.75	20	0	117.2	95
				Ft. Myers (A)	4-1	2.08	6	0	34.2	27

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
41	Chris Heintz	R-R	8/6/74	**MINNESOTA**	**.000**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Rochester (AAA)	.286	100	374	46	3	39	0
7	Joe Mauer	L-R	4/19/83	**MINNESOTA**	**.347**	**140**	**521**	**86**	**13**	**84**	**8**
55	Mike Redmond	R-R	5/5/71	**MINNESOTA**	**.341**	**47**	**179**	**20**	**0**	**23**	**0**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
18	Jason Bartlett	R-R	10/30/79	**MINNESOTA**	**.309**	**99**	**333**	**44**	**2**	**32**	**10**
				Rochester (AAA)	.306	58	235	42	1	20	6
25	Alexi Casilla	S-R	7/20/84	**MINNESOTA**	**.250**	**9**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				New Britain (AA)	.294	45	170	28	1	13	19
				Ft. Myers (A)	.331	78	323	56	0	33	31
1	Luis Castillo	S-R	9/12/75	**MINNESOTA**	**.296**	**142**	**584**	**84**	**3**	**49**	**25**
	Jeff Cirillo	R-R	9/23/69	**MILWAUKEE**	**.319**	**112**	**263**	**33**	**3**	**23**	**1**
50	Garrett Jones	L-L	6/21/81	Rochester (AAA)	.238	140	525	72	21	92	3
	Alejandro Machado	S-R	4/26/82	Pawtucket (AAA)	.260	116	373	46	4	32	21
33	Justin Morneau	L-R	5/15/81	**MINNESOTA**	**.321**	**157**	**592**	**97**	**34**	**130**	**3**
8	Nick Punto	S-R	11/8/77	**MINNESOTA**	**.290**	**135**	**459**	**73**	**1**	**45**	**17**
38	Luis Rodriguez	S-R	6/27/80	**MINNESOTA**	**.235**	**59**	**115**	**11**	**2**	**6**	**0**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
5	Michael Cuddyer	R-R	3/27/79	**MINNESOTA**	**.284**	**150**	**557**	**102**	**24**	**109**	**6**
20	Lew Ford	R-R	8/12/76	**MINNESOTA**	**.226**	**104**	**234**	**40**	**4**	**18**	**9**
				Rochester (AAA)	.276	8	29	5	0	2	0
48	Torii Hunter	R-R	7/18/75	**MINNESOTA**	**.278**	**147**	**557**	**86**	**31**	**98**	**12**
16	Jason Kubel	L-R	5/25/82	**MINNESOTA**	**.241**	**73**	**220**	**23**	**8**	**26**	**2**
				Rochester (AAA)	.283	30	120	18	4	22	2
71	Alex Romero	L-R	9/9/83	Rochester (AAA)	.250	71	236	20	0	26	6
				New Britain (AA)	.281	48	167	29	5	16	15
2	Denard Span	L-L	2/27/84	New Britain (AA)	.285	134	536	80	2	45	24
12	Jason Tyner	L-L	4/23/77	**MINNESOTA**	**.312**	**62**	**218**	**29**	**0**	**18**	**4**
				Rochester (AAA)	.329	80	316	52	0	22	8
24	Rondell White	R-R	2/23/72	**MINNESOTA**	**.246**	**99**	**337**	**32**	**7**	**38**	**1**
				Rochester (AAA)	.235	13	51	8	1	5	0

Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim

2007 Prediction: 1st

2006 Finish: 89–73

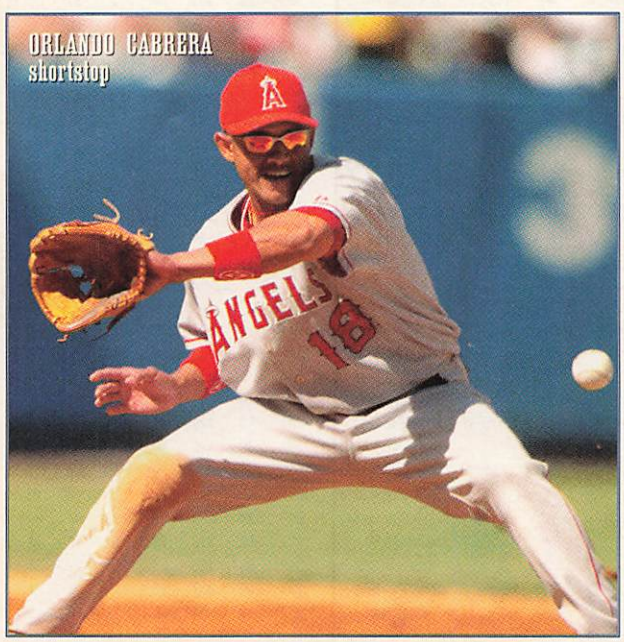
AL West

Owner Arte Moreno may have committed his biggest gaffe since he bought the team in 2003 when he promised major offseason moves. While the Angels might have improved with the signings of Shea Hillenbrand and Gary Matthews Jr., they certainly didn't make the kind of offensive splash Moreno promised. Still, they should contend in an unimpressive AL West.

Rotation Pitching was the Angels' forte in 2006, and the club will need to continue to baffle opposing lineups to contend. John Lackey takes over leadership of the staff, but Jered Weaver might be the ace by season's end. The team says Bartolo Colon has been diligent in his rehab from a strained shoulder, but it's likely there will be a competition for the fifth starter spot in spring training. Colon's conditioning has been a major issue in recent springs. The team was hoping Colon would lose a little weight while he rehabilitated his right shoulder in the Dominican Republic. GM Bill Stoneman says conditioning is a must, particularly as a pitcher gets older. If Colon is unable to pitch, lefthander Joe Saunders likely will take his spot. Ervin Santana and Kelvim Escobar have proven to be solid innings eaters, but not much more. If Colon proves healthy this spring, the Angels might trade one of their young starters for the hitter they desperately need.

Bullpen Relief is, without a doubt, the strength of the team. If the starters can average six innings per outing, the Angels could win as many as 95 games. They will have a luxury few teams have: two reliable, veteran setup men ahead of one of the game's best closers. Acquiring Justin Speier allowed the Angels to deal Brendan Donnelly, whose stuff had been on the decline, to Boston. Darren Oliver gives them a veteran lefty who should be more productive than J.C. Romero. Rodriguez garnered some well-deserved Cy Young votes and might be the heir apparent to Mariano Rivera as the league's dominant closer.

Middle Infield If the Angels' offense does improve, it will likely be thanks to Howie Kendrick, who could be a big upgrade over No. 9-hitting Adam Kennedy. Kendrick has the potential to be a No. 3 hitter in the major leagues, though he was too inconsistent in his first major league season and was benched at times. Kendrick's minor league numbers were simply too good to ignore, allowing the Angels to let the popular Kennedy depart. Orlando Cabrera is as steady as they come at shortstop, but only a sporadic offensive contributor. He does better near the top of the lineup but is prone to strike out.



Corners The Angels were hoping to upgrade at the corners, but Stoneman failed in every attempt to add an everyday player with some pop. As a result, manager Mike Scioscia will have to mix and match from a group of undistinguished players. Dallas McPherson has been inconsistent and injury-prone, Casey Kotchman missed most of last season with the remnants of mononucleosis, Robb Quinlan is a career bench player and Hillenbrand is shaky with the glove. Chone Figgins might end up playing plenty of third if he isn't traded by spring training. Figgins could be a little disgruntled when he reports, though. The team grew tired of his strikeouts at the leadoff position and acquired Matthews. Figgins may have to perform to stay in the lineup every day and, again, he'll have to play several positions. If you're wondering why the Angels don't score, look no further than first and third base. Not exactly thunder on the corners.

Outfield With the signing of Matthews, the Angels' outfield went from being an aging, slow unit to being suddenly solid. That's how good Matthews is in center field, a premium position at Angel Stadium. Matthews makes circus catches, something not seen from an Angel since Darin Erstad moved out of center field. Vladimir Guerrero becomes more integral to the Angels as each season passes and Stoneman fails to add offense around him. At some point, Guerrero will begin to decline, and that could spell disaster for the franchise. Garret Anderson is clearly in a steep decline in all facets of his game. The loss of Juan Rivera, who broke his leg playing winter ball, is a major blow to the offense. Days after the Angels learned of his injury, they signed Hillenbrand, who fits right into the Angels' swing-happy ways.

Catching Mike Napoli has the most exciting upside because of his occasionally freakish power, but his second-half nosedive offensively raises serious questions about his ability to be

STATLINE

Most 15-HR Seasons with Fewer than 40 BBs

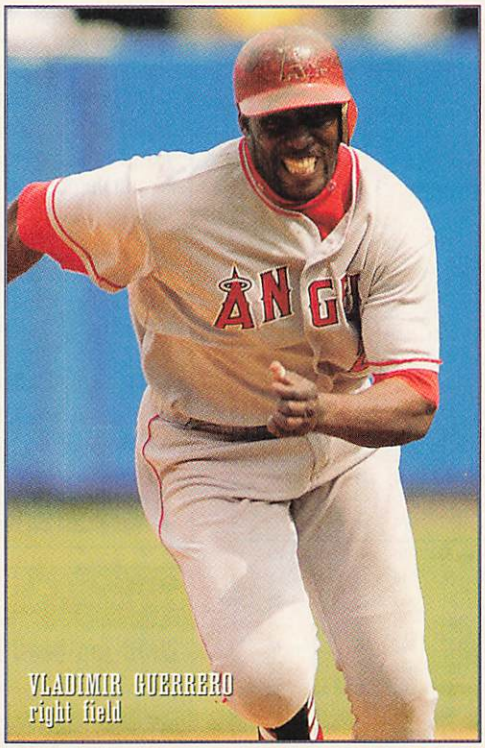
1.	Andre Dawson	14
2.	Matt Williams	10
3t.	**Garret Anderson**	**9**
3t.	Joe Carter	9
3t.	Gary Gaetti	9

an everyday catcher. Jose Molina has one of the game's best throwing arms but is virtually nonexistent at the plate and appears to be a lifetime backup. Like his brother, the Giants' Bengie, Jose sometimes neglects his conditioning work.

DH/Bench Maicer Izturis proved to be better than the Angels expected with his bat, but worse with his glove. He figures to have a more prominent role if he continues to show spark with his bat. Hillenbrand figures to get the vast majority of his at-bats at designated hitter. Quinlan is an underrated player with some pop in his bat. Defense is a struggle, but Quinlan tries hard.

Management If the Angels fail to make the playoffs for the second straight year, Stoneman is likely to be in more jeopardy than Scioscia. The manager is signed through the 2009 season, while Stoneman's contract allows him to become a consultant after the 2007 season. Considering his lack of dealing, that might be a better role for Stoneman than GM. A younger, less risk-averse executive might give the Angels greater flexibility. Some Angels veterans thought Scioscia let things get too lax in the clubhouse last year, but he seemed powerless to stop it considering many of his best players are happy-go-lucky personalities.

Final Analysis This team is clearly not a threat to dominate the American League, but it is hard to imagine that it will sink to the bottom of a mediocre division. Clubhouse chemistry was sometimes an issue in 2006, something the Angels think they remedied by adding players, like Matthews and Speier, with good character references. The Angels are convinced Hillenbrand won't be a problem, and Scioscia usually communicates with established veterans when they're not playing. This team should be in the playoff hunt, but a run at the World Series is a longshot.



FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Vladimir Guerrero
High-Dividend Hurler: Francisco Rodriguez
Buy Recommendation: Ervin Santana
Sell Recommendation: Gary Matthews
Medical (In)Securities: Juan Rivera
IPO: 2B Howie Kendrick
Futures Market: SS Brandon Wood
Insider Tip: Kendrick to hit .290 with 15 HRs, 15 SBs.

STATISTICIAN

10 Rank of the Angels among 14 AL teams in on-base percentage.
.371 The on-base percentage of new leadoff hitter Gary Matthews Jr. last year in Texas.
5 Number of complete games thrown by Angel pitchers, down from seven in 2005.
159 Number of home runs by the Angels in 2006. Only five ML teams hit fewer.
6 Consecutive seasons that Vladimir Guerrero has fallen short of 40 home runs.
8 Number of seasons, out of the last nine, that Guerrero has driven in at least 100 runs.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

If **Gary Matthews Jr.** isn't a difference maker, the Angels could be in trouble. They made a serious wager that Matthews' 2006 season in Texas wasn't a fluke. They gave him a five-year, $50 million contract off a year in which the lifetime .249 hitter before the season batted .313 and bashed a career-high 19 home runs. Some scary numbers, though: Matthews batted just .214 against curveballs and .195 against sliders. He could get a diet of breaking balls if the Angels can't get a productive No. 2 hitter. Howie Kendrick and Orlando Cabrera will be the most likely candidates to hit second, a position nearly as important as the one behind Vladimir Guerrero.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

CF Gary Matthews Jr.
Centerpiece acquisition of an otherwise quiet offseason.

SS Orlando Cabrera
He seems to thrive near the top of the lineup.

RF Vladimir Guerrero
Yet again, will have to do nearly all the heavy lifting by himself.

LF Garret Anderson
His superstar days seem over as a long decline continues.

DH Shea Hillenbrand
L.A. missed him near trading deadline, landed him in the winter.

2B Howie Kendrick
A lot is expected of the young man; has improved as a fielder.

1B Casey Kotchman
If he isn't traded, he'll again have a chance to take over at first.

C Mike Napoli
Splashed into the big leagues but slumped badly after the break.

3B Chone Figgins
Returns to super-utility role; can still create havoc if he gets on.

BENCH

INF Maicer Izturis
He showed surprising pop and could play a lot.

INF Robb Quinlan
His is the first bat called for off the bench.

INF Dallas McPherson
He simply hasn't been able to stay healthy.

C Jose Molina
Threw out 41 percent of would-be basestealers.

OF Tommy Murphy
Has an outstanding arm; had four stints with the Angels in '06.

ROTATION

RHP John Lackey
He led the staff in innings (217.2) and strikeouts (190).

RHP Jered Weaver
Alarming number of fly balls are a concern.

RHP Kelvim Escobar
Steady contributor but has never shined at the big moments.

RHP Ervin Santana
Has been dangled continually in trade talks, but he's still here.

RHP Bartolo Colon
Whether he ever returns to his Cy Young form is up to him.

BULLPEN

RHP Francisco Rodriguez
If Angels compete, he should be a Cy Young contender again.

RHP Scot Shields
How much longer can he take the ball nearly every day?

RHP Justin Speier
Got nice contract (four years, $18 million) for a No. 3 reliever.

LHP Darren Oliver
The veteran becomes the No. 1 lefty option.

RHP Hector Carrasco
He's got great versatility and a strong right arm.

LHP Joe Saunders
He's got a chance to be the long man or fifth starter.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Mike Scioscia **COACHES:** Mickey Hatcher, Mike Butcher, Orlando Mercado, Alfredo Griffin, Dino Ebel, Ron Roenicke

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
66	Jose Arredondo	R-R	3/30/84	Arkansas (AA)	2-3	6.53	11	0	60.2	48
				R. Cucamonga (A)	5-6	2.30	15	0	90.0	115
48	Hector Carrasco	R-R	10/22/69	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**7-3**	**3.41**	**56**	**1**	**100.1**	**72**
40	Bartolo Colon	R-R	5/24/73	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**1-5**	**5.11**	**10**	**0**	**56.1**	**31**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	0-1	6.17	2	0	11.2	3
				R. Cucamonga (A)	0-0	0.00	1	0	4.0	3
45	Kelvim Escobar	R-R	4/11/76	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**11-14**	**3.61**	**30**	**0**	**189.1**	**147**
37	Greg Jones	R-R	11/15/76	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**0-0**	**6.00**	**5**	**0**	**6.0**	**1**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	5-6	4.09	47	17	55.0	45
41	John Lackey	R-R	10/23/78	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**13-11**	**3.56**	**33**	**0**	**217.2**	**190**
58	Dustin Moseley	R-R	12/26/81	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**1-0**	**9.00**	**3**	**0**	**11.0**	**3**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	13-8	4.63	26	0	149.2	114
	Darren Oliver	R-L	10/6/70	**NEW YORK NL**	**4-1**	**3.44**	**45**	**0**	**81.0**	**60**
34	Chris Resop	R-R	11/4/82	**FLORIDA**	**1-2**	**3.38**	**22**	**0**	**21.1**	**10**
				Albuquerque (AAA)	4-0	3.81	40	2	49.2	43
57	Francisco Rodriguez	R-R	1/7/82	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**2-3**	**1.73**	**69**	**47**	**73.0**	**98**
54	Ervin Santana	R-R	12/12/82	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**16-8**	**4.28**	**33**	**0**	**204.0**	**141**
68	Joe Saunders	L-L	6/16/81	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**7-3**	**4.71**	**13**	**0**	**70.2**	**51**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	10-4	2.67	21	0	134.2	97
	Phil Seibel	L-L	1/28/79	Pawtucket (AAA)	2-0	1.29	8	0	14.0	21
				Portland (AA)	2-3	1.20	9	0	45.0	42
				Greenville (A)	2-0	1.35	4	0	20.0	19
84	Steven Shell	R-R	3/10/83	Salt Lake (AAA)	5-9	6.16	24	0	122.2	82
				Arkansas (AA)	1-2	4.00	3	0	18.0	10
62	Scot Shields	R-R	7/22/75	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**7-7**	**2.87**	**74**	**2**	**87.2**	**84**
33	Justin Speier	R-R	11/6/73	**TORONTO**	**2-0**	**2.98**	**58**	**0**	**51.1**	**55**
56	Jered Weaver	R-R	10/4/82	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**11-2**	**2.56**	**19**	**0**	**123.0**	**105**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	6-1	1.99	12	0	77.0	93

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
5	Jeff Mathis	R-R	3/31/83	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.145**	**23**	**55**	**9**	**2**	**6**	**0**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	.289	99	384	62	5	45	3
28	Jose Molina	R-R	6/3/75	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.240**	**78**	**225**	**18**	**4**	**22**	**1**
44	Mike Napoli	R-R	10/31/81	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.228**	**99**	**268**	**47**	**16**	**42**	**2**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	.244	21	78	12	3	10	1
46	Bobby Wilson	R-R	4/8/83	Arkansas (AA)	.286	103	374	45	9	53	1

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
32	Erick Aybar	S-R	1/14/84	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.250**	**34**	**40**	**5**	**0**	**2**	**1**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	.283	81	339	63	6	45	36
	Matt Brown	R-R	8/8/82	Arkansas (AA)	.289	134	515	77	19	79	7
18	Orlando Cabrera	R-R	10/2/74	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.282**	**153**	**607**	**95**	**9**	**72**	**27**
9	Chone Figgins	S-R	1/22/78	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.267**	**155**	**604**	**93**	**9**	**62**	**52**
	Shea Hillenbrand	R-R	7/27/75	**TORONTO**	**.301**	**81**	**296**	**40**	**12**	**39**	**1**
				SAN FRANCISCO	**.248**	**60**	**234**	**33**	**9**	**29**	**0**
6	Maicer Izturis	S-R	9/12/80	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.293**	**104**	**352**	**64**	**5**	**44**	**14**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	.306	9	36	5	0	5	1
47	Howie Kendrick	R-R	7/12/83	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.285**	**72**	**267**	**25**	**4**	**30**	**6**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	.369	69	290	57	13	62	10
35	Casey Kotchman	L-L	2/22/83	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.152**	**29**	**79**	**6**	**1**	**6**	**0**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	.000	3	7	0	0	1	0
8	Dallas McPherson	L-R	7/23/80	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.261**	**40**	**115**	**16**	**7**	**13**	**1**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	.250	56	208	35	17	45	3
				R. Cucamonga (A)	.438	5	16	3	2	5	1
22	Kendry Morales	S-R	6/20/83	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.234**	**57**	**197**	**21**	**5**	**22**	**1**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	.320	66	256	41	12	52	0
39	Robb Quinlan	R-R	3/17/77	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.321**	**86**	**234**	**28**	**9**	**32**	**2**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
16	Garret Anderson	L-L	6/30/72	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.280**	**141**	**543**	**63**	**17**	**85**	**1**
	Terry Evans	R-R	1/19/82	Springfield (AA)	.307	21	75	13	7	20	5
				Arkansas (AA)	.309	52	188	48	11	22	11
				Palm Beach (A)	.311	60	238	43	15	45	21
36	Nick Gorneault	R-R	4/19/79	Salt Lake (AAA)	.283	107	407	66	15	78	5
27	Vladimir Guerrero	R-R	2/9/76	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.329**	**156**	**607**	**92**	**33**	**116**	**15**
24	Gary Matthews Jr.	S-R	8/25/74	**TEXAS**	**.313**	**147**	**620**	**102**	**19**	**79**	**10**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	.429	6	21	10	0	1	2
65	Tommy Murphy	R-R	8/27/79	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.229**	**48**	**70**	**12**	**1**	**6**	**4**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	.302	73	285	43	7	36	6
20	Juan Rivera	R-R	7/3/78	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.310**	**124**	**448**	**65**	**23**	**85**	**0**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	.556	2	9	3	1	6	0
77	Reggie Willits	S-R	5/30/81	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.267**	**28**	**45**	**12**	**0**	**2**	**4**
				Salt Lake (AAA)	.326	98	353	85	3	38	31

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

WINTER WONDER The Angels' front office does not like when veteran players participate in winter ball, so closer Francisco Rodriguez, who insists on working a few innings in Venezuela every year, had it written into his contract that he could participate. He says it gets his body ready for spring training.

JUAN GONE As if to emphasize the Angels' point, outfielder Juan Rivera broke his leg in a collision at first base in a Venezuelan game. Within days of Rivera's injury, the Angels signed Shea Hillenbrand.

PERSONA NON GRATA It's impossible to overstate how much animosity the Angels feel for outfielder Jose Guillen, and now they will play against him 19 times. Guillen signed with the Seattle Mariners. He called manager Mike Scioscia a "piece of garbage" when he returned with the Washington Nationals two season ago. Guillen had been kicked off the team for an incident with Scioscia late in the 2004 season.

GLAD FOR VLAD Vladimir Guerrero told the *Associated Press* in Santo Domingo that the Angels considered having him undergo surgery for an inflamed right knee. Instead, Guerrero said it responded to rest and rehab work.

CRADLE OF MANAGERS Mike Scioscia's staff is becoming a pool of talent for managerial jobs. Bench coach Joe Maddon went to the Tampa Bay Devil Rays a year ago and pitching coach Bud Black took over in San Diego this winter. First base coach Alfredo Griffin could attract some interest eventually, as could bench coach Ron Roenicke.

NEW LOOK The Angels have retained only six members of the '02 World Series team: Rodriguez, John Lackey, Scot Shields, Jose Molina, Chone Figgins and Garret Anderson. Three from that club — Darin Erstad, Adam Kennedy and Brendan Donnelly — were cast off over the winter.

THE FARM SYSTEM

Bill Mitchell

2006 Top Draft Pick

The Angels took a hometown kid, Huntington Beach High catcher **Hank Conger**, with the 25th pick last June. It looked like a wise move when Conger batted .319 with 11 RBIs in the Arizona Rookie League, but he broke the hamate bone in his right wrist and didn't play again. Conger is healed now, and the Angels are hopeful he can move quickly through their system. He is a left-handed hitter with power, so he could be in the major leagues in as few as three or four years if he continues to progress.

Prospects

SS Brandon Wood His numbers dipped, but he's still got huge power potential.

RHP Nick Adenhart He is only 19, and he's getting closer and closer.

SS Erick Aybar He's blocked by Orlando Cabrera, which could make a trade likely.

RHP Young-Il Jung The Angels got him out of Korea in September, and he has a chance to arrive in the bigs quickly.

RHP Stephen Marek He'll probably start at Rancho Cucamonga, where he had a 3.94 ERA in six starts last year.

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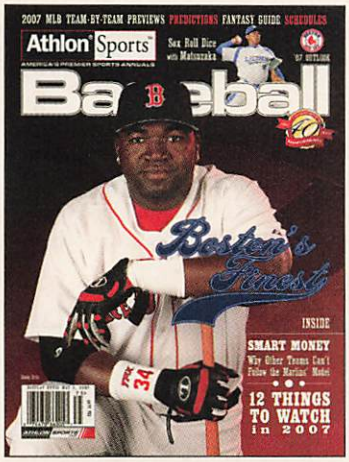

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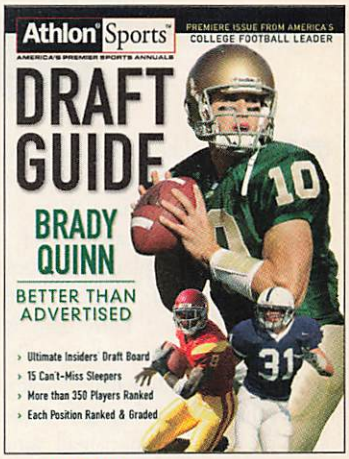

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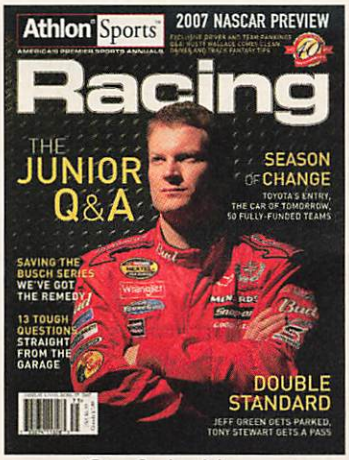

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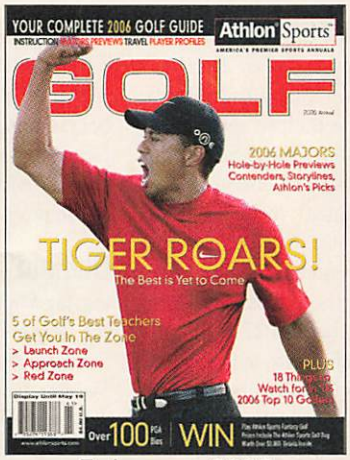

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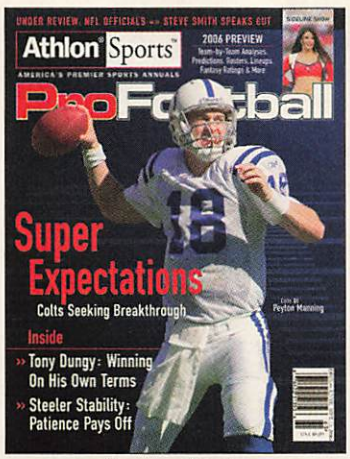

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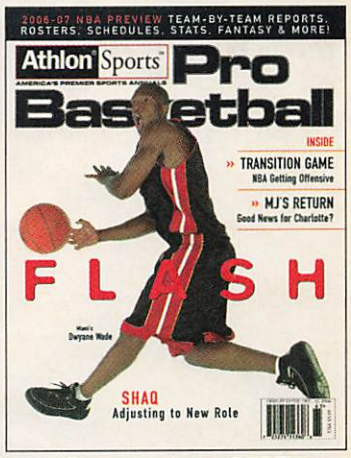

September 2007

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Oakland Athletics

2007 Prediction: 3rd

2006 Finish: 93–69

AL West

Nothing like a long, cold winter to chill the warmth built while winning the American League West and reaching the league championship series. The A's have plenty of familiar faces returning from their talented 2006 team, but Frank Thomas and Barry Zito will not be among them. It will be impossible to replace the offense and intangibles Thomas provided, though the A's hope free agent Mike Piazza can offset the loss in some small way. Although four-fifths of the rotation returns, how can the A's replace Zito, who made 222 starts during his Oakland career? The winter developments could prevent a happy summer and a return to fall baseball.

Rotation An era ended when Zito, the last of the Three Aces, left the A's as a free agent and signed a $127 million deal with the cross-Bay San Francisco Giants. The A's will find it difficult to replace Zito, who didn't miss a start in his six-plus seasons. They have plenty of arms returning, but none as durable as Zito. Rich Harden is the ace-in-waiting, but he must remain healthy. Harden has made only 28 starts the past two seasons because of injuries. Esteban Loaiza's season could be measured in two parts. He went 0–3 with an 8.35 ERA before he was placed on the disabled list with a strained left trapezius muscle. After returning he was 11–6 with a 4.42 ERA and was the team's hottest pitcher at one point. Young Joe Blanton tied Zito for the team lead with 16 victories. However, his 4.82 ERA was more than a full run higher than the season before. Dan Haren has won 14 games in his first two seasons with the A's and could be viewed as the team's most reliable starter entering the 2007 season. The fifth starter isn't set in stone, though Kirk Saarloos has the inside track since he's made 43 starts the past two seasons.

NICK SWISHER
left field

Bullpen The A's led the majors with 54 saves, but closing out games was a little more precarious than the year before. Closer Huston Street, coming off a Rookie of the Year season, struggled at times and blew 11 saves. A's relievers recorded a 3.60 ERA, ranking third in the AL. Every member of the bullpen returns. To bridge the gap between starters and Street, the A's have Joe Kennedy, Justin Duchscherer and Kiko Calero. While Kennedy missed most of the season with a shoulder injury, Duchscherer and Calero were as dependable as ever. The group was bolstered by the addition of lefty Alan Embree, who had a 3.27 ERA with the San Diego Padres last season. Brad Halsey and Chad Gaudin give the A's options as long relievers and/or spot starters if the need arises.

Middle Infield The statement was made last season but bears repeating. The A's need to keep shortstop Bobby Crosby and second baseman Mark Ellis on the field at the same time. It hasn't happened as often as they'd like in the past three seasons. Ellis missed all of 2004 when he dislocated his right shoulder colliding with Crosby late in a spring training game. Crosby sustained two broken ribs on Opening Day 2005 and did not return until May 30. He also missed nearly the remainder of the season after fracturing his left ankle on Aug. 28. Last year, Crosby missed 52 games with a variety of injuries. Unlike the year before, he was not productive when he did play, hitting only .229. Ellis batted .316 in 2005 and his career appeared to be taking an upward turn. However, he broke his right thumb in May and struggled offensively when he returned, hitting .249.

Corners Third baseman Eric Chavez had more injuries than he cared to remember. The most nagging was a forearm problem. He hit a career-low .241 with only 22 homers. Oddly, the injuries did not hamper his fielding, and he arguably had his finest season in the field, winning his sixth straight Gold Glove. Chavez is in the middle of a six-year deal in which the A's had hoped he would become an offensive force. That has yet to materialize. First baseman Dan Johnson inherits the starting job with Nick Swisher moving back to the outfield. It's certainly not a lock that Johnson will remain a starter. He started last season by going 1-for-37, lost his job and was sent to Triple-A Sacramento after the All-Star break. If Johnson struggles again, the A's could move Swisher back to first base or give Piazza a shot at the position.

Outfield With the A's opting against re-signing Jay Payton, there isn't much mystery who the starters will be. From left to right, it's Swisher, Mark Kotsay and Milton Bradley. Swisher has star potential, as evidenced by a season in which he hit 35 homers and drove in 95 runs. He appeared in 90 games at first last year but will move back to the outfield. Kotsay has been troubled by back problems the last two seasons, which limited him to 129 games in 2006. Although his offensive numbers suffered, he played his usual brand of terrific defense. Simply put, Bradley needs to stay on the field. He appeared in 96 games last year because of injuries, a year after he was limited to 75.

STATLINE

Fewest HRs per 100 PAs, Last 3 Years

1.	Jason Kendall	0.20
2.	Willy Taveras	0.33
2.	Juan Pierre	0.36
4.	Jamey Carroll	0.44
3.	Luis Castillo	0.49

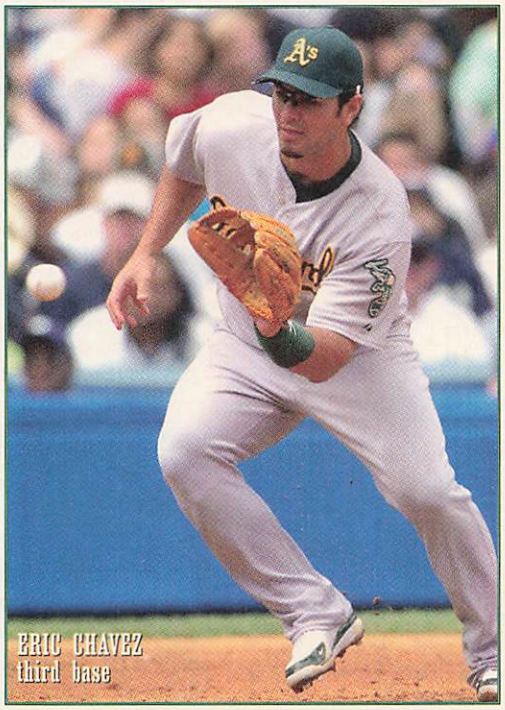
(minimum 1,000 PAs)

Swisher: Jed Jacobsohn/Getty Images; Chavez: Steve Moore

Catching With Jason Kendall around, the A's don't have much use for a backup. Kendall has missed only 31 games in his two seasons with the A's. Kendall had a better year after his first with the A's, hitting .295. However, with an improved lineup, the A's don't need a lot of offense from their catcher, and his value comes from calling games and handling the staff's young pitchers. He also improved considerably defensively, throwing out 23 of 94 basestealers (24.5 percent).

DH/Bench Piazza will be asked to provide a big bat in the middle of the lineup. His power numbers have tailed off considerably in recent years, but he did hit 22 home runs with 68 RBIs in 122 games with San Diego last year. Not much has changed on the bench since last season. The A's like utility man Marco Scutaro, but they hope he doesn't have to play as often as he has the past two seasons. Scutaro was the full-time second baseman after replacing the injured Ellis in 2004, and he has played 150 games at shortstop the last two seasons. Scutaro, who hit .266, is better suited for fill-in play and pinch hitting. Catcher Adam Melhuse will languish on the bench with Kendall starting. Bobby Kielty is back again as a fourth outfielder. The A's will also give Ryan Goleski a look in spring training. Goleski was in the Cleveland Indians' farm system last year and was acquired in the Rule 5 draft.

Management All discussions here begin and end with general manager Billy Beane, who owns a piece of the team. Although manager Ken Macha led the A's to the ALCS, he was fired immediately after the season. Beane and Macha had a strained relationship the past two seasons. In Beane's Moneyball concept, the manager's role is minimized, and Macha was expendable. Macha was replaced by Bob Geren, his bench coach and a close friend of Beane.


ERIC CHAVEZ
third base

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Nick Swisher
High-Dividend Hurler: Huston Street
Buy Recommendation: Dan Johnson
Sell Recommendation: Jason Kendall
Medical (In)Securities: Bobby Crosby
IPO: RHP Jason Windsor
Futures Market: 1B Daric Barton
Insider Tip: Rich Harden will stay healthy and win 16.

STATISTICIAN

1 Homers hit by Jason Kendall in 1,153 at-bats since he joined the A's in 2005.
6 Consecutive Gold Gloves won by third baseman Eric Chavez.
7 Number of walk-off wins by the A's last year.
8 Pinch hits by the A's last season, the fewest in club history.
15 Consecutive wins over the Seattle Mariners, snapped on Sept. 25
103 Interleague wins by the A's, tying them with the Yankees for the most in the major leagues.
105 Outfield assists by Mark Kotsay since 1998, the most in the majors.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

The A's will ask **Mike Piazza** to provide the same offensive spark that Frank Thomas gave them last season. It will be no easy task for Piazza to match Thomas' 39 homers and 114 RBIs. Piazza had 22 homers and 68 RBIs for the San Diego Padres last season, and his career is clearly on the decline. Piazza hasn't put up the numbers Thomas did since 2000, when he hit 38 homers and drove in 113 runs. However, Piazza will be a full-time designated hitter and won't have the wear and tear of catching with iron man Jason Kendall calling games.

Final Analysis The A's held up their end of the bargain, winning the AL West last season. But minus two key components from that team, they will have a much more difficult time winning the division this time around.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

C Jason Kendall
Improved offense and defense in second year with A's.

LF Nick Swisher
His 35 home runs set A's record for a switch hitter.

CF Mark Kotsay
Only spats with back problems have kept numbers down.

3B Eric Chavez
Injuries hounded his season, in which he hit .241.

RF Milton Bradley
Health was only deterrent from reaching his potential.

DH Mike Piazza
Slugged over .500 last season for the first time since 2002.

SS Bobby Crosby
Hit .185 vs. lefties in '06 after batting .314 the year before.

1B Dan Johnson
Needs to make adjustments at plate to remain every day player.

2B Mark Ellis
Had disappointing season after signing two-year contract.

BENCH

C Adam Melhuse
Played in only 88 games last two seasons as Kendall's backup.

INF Marco Scutaro
Played in over 100 games for third straight year.

OF Bobby Kielty
Returned from minors to post solid season with A's.

INF Antonio Perez
Had horrible year at the plate, hitting just .102 in 98 at-bats.

ROTATION

RHP Dan Haren
Has inherited role as team's most reliable pitcher.

RHP Esteban Loaiza
Overcame horrible start (0–3, 8.35 ERA) to post solid season.

RHP Rich Harden
When he starts, A's are 21–7 past two seasons.

RHP Joe Blanton
Had 16 wins, but ERA ballooned from 3.53 to 4.82.

RHP Kirk Saarloos
He'll battle lefty Joe Kennedy for final rotation spot.

BULLPEN

RHP Huston Street
Save percentage (.771) was second-lowest in the AL.

RHP Kiko Calero
Right-handed hitters struggled against him, hitting .208.

RHP Justin Duchscherer
Second straight sub-3.00 ERA for underrated reliever.

LHP Alan Embree
Gives A's experienced lefty in bullpen.

LHP Joe Kennedy
Gives the team options in the rotation and bullpen.

LHP Brad Halsey
Performed several roles last season; made seven starts.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Bob Geren **COACHES:** Brad Fischer, Rene Lachemann, Bob Schaefer, Ty Van Burkleo, Tye Waller, Curt Young

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
55	Joe Blanton	R-R	12/11/80	**OAKLAND**	**16-12**	**4.82**	**32**	**0**	**194.1**	**107**
50	Kiko Calero	R-R	1/9/75	**OAKLAND**	**3-2**	**3.41**	**70**	**2**	**58.0**	**67**
46	Santiago Casilla	R-R	7/25/80	**OAKLAND**	**0-0**	**11.57**	**2**	**0**	**2.1**	**2**
				Sacramento (AAA)	2-0	3.27	25	8	33.0	32
58	Justin Duchscherer	R-R	11/19/77	**OAKLAND**	**2-1**	**2.91**	**53**	**9**	**55.2**	**51**
				Sacramento (AAA)	0-0	0.00	2	0	2.0	1
56	Scott Dunn	R-R	5/23/78	**TAMPA BAY**	**1-0**	**11.74**	**7**	**0**	**7.2**	**4**
				Durham (AAA)	4-2	2.73	38	0	66.0	70
41	Alan Embree	L-L	1/23/70	**SAN DIEGO**	**4-3**	**3.27**	**73**	**0**	**52.1**	**53**
47	Ron Flores	L-L	8/9/79	**OAKLAND**	**1-2**	**3.34**	**25**	**1**	**29.2**	**20**
				Sacramento (AAA)	5-5	6.48	26	2	25.0	27
57	Chad Gaudin	R-R	3/24/83	Sacramento (AAA)	3-0	0.37	4	0	24.1	26
51	Brad Halsey	L-L	2/14/81	**OAKLAND**	**5-4**	**4.67**	**52**	**0**	**94.1**	**53**
				Sacramento (AAA)	1-0	0.96	2	0	9.1	3
40	Rich Harden	L-R	11/30/81	**OAKLAND**	**4-0**	**4.24**	**9**	**0**	**46.2**	**49**
				Sacramento (AAA)	0-0	0.00	1	0	2.0	3
24	Dan Haren	R-R	9/17/80	**OAKLAND**	**14-13**	**4.12**	**34**	**0**	**223.0**	**176**
37	Joe Kennedy	R-L	5/24/79	**OAKLAND**	**4-1**	**2.31**	**39**	**1**	**35.0**	**29**
				Sacramento (AAA)	0-0	0.00	3	0	4.0	2
60	Shane Komine	R-R	10/18/80	**OAKLAND**	**0-0**	**5.00**	**2**	**0**	**9.0**	**1**
				Sacramento (AAA)	11-8	4.05	24	0	140.0	116
25	Esteban Loaiza	R-R	12/31/71	**OAKLAND**	**11-9**	**4.89**	**26**	**0**	**154.2**	**97**
				Sacramento (AAA)	1-1	5.87	2	0	7.2	4
52	Jay Marshall	R-R	2/25/83	Winston-Salem (A)	5-1	1.02	58	4	62.0	44
62	Marcus McBeth	R-R	8/23/80	Sacramento (AAA)	0-1	11.05	6	0	7.1	7
				Midland (AA)	3-2	2.48	45	25	54.1	65
				Stockton (A)	0-0	0.00	8	7	8.2	14
30	Dan Meyer	R-L	7/3/81	Sacramento (AAA)	3-3	5.07	10	0	49.2	29
15	Kirk Saarloos	R-R	5/23/79	**OAKLAND**	**7-7**	**4.75**	**35**	**2**	**121.1**	**52**
20	Huston Street	R-R	8/2/83	**OAKLAND**	**4-4**	**3.31**	**69**	**37**	**70.2**	**67**
49	Jason Windsor	R-R	7/16/82	**OAKLAND**	**0-1**	**6.59**	**4**	**0**	**13.2**	**6**
				Sacramento (AAA)	13-1	3.81	20	0	118.0	123
				Midland (AA)	4-1	2.97	6	0	33.1	35
45	Jay Witasick	R-R	8/28/72	**OAKLAND**	**1-0**	**6.75**	**20**	**0**	**22.2**	**23**
				Sacramento (AAA)	1-0	3.86	12	0	14.0	6
				Stockton (A)	0-0	3.60	3	0	5.0	6

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
5	Jeremy Brown	R-R	10/25/79	**OAKLAND**	**.300**	**5**	**10**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Sacramento (AAA)	.255	77	275	41	13	40	0
18	Jason Kendall	R-R	6/26/74	**OAKLAND**	**.295**	**143**	**552**	**76**	**1**	**50**	**11**
17	Adam Melhuse	S-R	3/27/72	**OAKLAND**	**.219**	**49**	**128**	**10**	**4**	**18**	**0**
31	Mike Piazza	R-R	9/4/68	**SAN DIEGO**	**.283**	**126**	**399**	**39**	**22**	**68**	**0**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
3	Eric Chavez	L-R	12/7/77	**OAKLAND**	**.241**	**137**	**485**	**74**	**22**	**72**	**3**
7	Bobby Crosby	R-R	1/12/80	**OAKLAND**	**.229**	**96**	**358**	**42**	**9**	**40**	**8**
14	Mark Ellis	R-R	6/6/77	**OAKLAND**	**.249**	**124**	**441**	**64**	**11**	**52**	**4**
				Sacramento (AAA)	.167	4	12	1	0	2	0
29	Dan Johnson	L-R	8/10/79	**OAKLAND**	**.234**	**91**	**286**	**30**	**9**	**37**	**0**
				Sacramento (AAA)	.314	46	172	34	7	44	0
13	Donnie Murphy	R-R	3/10/83	Wichita (AA)	.249	94	366	57	14	45	6
4	Antonio Perez	R-R	1/26/80	**OAKLAND**	**.102**	**57**	**98**	**10**	**1**	**8**	**0**
19	Marco Scutaro	R-R	10/30/75	**OAKLAND**	**.266**	**117**	**365**	**52**	**5**	**41**	**5**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
44	Hiram Bocachica	R-R	3/4/76	**OAKLAND**	**.231**	**8**	**13**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**1**
				Sacramento (AAA)	.326	77	291	61	19	60	18
				Stockton (A)	.286	4	14	3	0	2	0
22	Milton Bradley	S-R	4/15/78	**OAKLAND**	**.276**	**96**	**351**	**53**	**14**	**52**	**10**
				Sacramento (AAA)	.208	6	24	3	2	6	1
				Stockton (A)	.143	2	7	1	0	0	0
28	Ryan Goleski	R-R	3/19/82	Akron (AA)	.296	87	324	48	17	63	4
				Kinston (A)	.331	38	121	28	10	43	2
65	Javier Herrera	R-R	4/9/85	INJURED	Missed Season						
23	Bobby Kielty	S-R	8/5/76	**OAKLAND**	**.270**	**81**	**270**	**35**	**8**	**36**	**2**
				Sacramento (AAA)	.222	10	36	5	1	4	0
21	Mark Kotsay	L-L	12/2/75	**OAKLAND**	**.275**	**129**	**502**	**57**	**7**	**59**	**6**
33	Nick Swisher	S-L	11/25/80	**OAKLAND**	**.254**	**157**	**556**	**106**	**35**	**95**	**1**
26	Charles Thomas	L-L	12/26/78	Sacramento (AAA)	.274	114	383	58	9	43	8

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK The A's have three players whose fathers played major league baseball. Catcher Jason Kendall's father, Fred, was a catcher for San Diego, Cleveland and Boston. Shortstop Bobby Crosby's father, Ed, played for St. Louis and Cleveland. Outfielder Nick Swisher's father, Steve, played for the Chicago Cubs, St. Louis and San Diego.

HOME COOKING The A's went 49–32 at McAfee Coliseum last season and have the majors' best home record (409–239) over the last eight seasons.

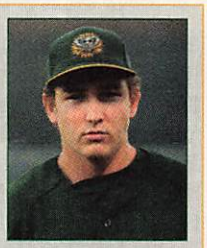
FAMOUS HOMBRE A's pitcher Esteban Loaiza had his ups and downs last season, but he's recognizable in his native Mexico. Loaiza was one of six athletes named in July by Mexico's national magazine, *Lideres Mexicanos*, as being among the 300 most influential people in the country.

THE SCOOP ON SCOOT Infielder Marco Scutaro is a .258 lifetime hitter in the major leagues, but he continues to be one of the top clutch hitters in baseball. The part-time player has won eight games in the team's final plate appearance over the last three seasons.

SECOND-HALF DOMINANCE The A's once again showed their prowess in the second half, finishing 22 games over .500. Over the last eight seasons they have the best record in the majors after the All-Star break (376–217) — 11 more wins than the New York Yankees.

SEEING DOUBLE The A's led the major leagues by grounding into 170 double plays. Only four teams in MLB history have grounded into more double plays. The Boston Red Sox set the record with 174 in 1990.

THE FARM SYSTEM



Bill Mitchell

2006 Top Draft Pick

The A's, without a first-round selection for the first time since the 2000 draft, took a pitcher who threw in the low 80s and pitched only 17 innings in 2005. But righthander **Trevor Cahill**, taken with the 66th pick, added about 10 miles per hour to his fastball and became one of the top pitchers in Southern California. Cahill attended Vista High School in San Diego, an area that's produced A's third baseman Eric Chavez and former Oakland pitcher Barry Zito. It was the first time the A's have used their first pick on a high school player since taking Chavez in 1995. Cahill appeared in only four games for the A's Rookie League team last season, compiling a 3.00 ERA.

Prospects

OF Travis Buck The 36th pick in the 2005 draft could be ready for the majors in 2008.

1B Daric Barton A broken left elbow curtailed his season and knocked him out of the team's No. 1 prospect spot.

OF Matt Sulentic Hit .354 with 22 RBIs in 38 games at Single-A Vancouver last season.

OF Javier Herrera Suspended in 2005 for flunking a drug test and missed 2006 with an elbow injury.

RHP Jason Windsor The 2004 third-round pick was called up to make three starts for the A's.

Seattle Mariners

2007 Prediction: 4th

2006 Finish: 78–84
AL West

The Mariners believe they are contenders. Three consecutive last-place finishes in the American League West suggest they may not be. The basic problem is that the starting pitching is no better than a year ago, and a year ago it was only average, if that (tied for eighth in the AL in ERA at 4.60). The offense is better with improvements in the outfield and at DH, but that improvement may not be enough. The defense is well above average, though, and that does help the pitching get out of tight spots.

Rotation Without being able to land the No. 1 starter they wanted, the Mariners enter the season with a new-look rotation (additions include Miguel Batista and Horacio Ramirez), but it's a rotation that doesn't figure to be an improvement on 2006's version. There is always the chance that Felix Hernandez, with his first full big league season under his belt, may break out, and that lefty Jarrod Washburn will pitch more to form, but plenty has to go well for the Mariners to be happy with this group as it sets up for the spring. Cha Seung Baek and Jake Woods pitched well in spots at the end of 2006, and both will get a chance to land a steady job at the end of the rotation. Righthander Sean White, a Rule 5 acquisition by the Pirates who was traded to Seattle, is a longshot to win a spot.

Bullpen The pen was the Mariners' primary strength in 2006 with righthander J.J. Putz establishing himself as one of the rising stars in the game with his splitter. Last season, he struck out 104 batters in 78.1 innings and allowed only 59 hits. But Mark Lowe, who pitched brilliantly as a rookie, is out until midseason at least because of injury, and Rafael Soriano, who was Putz's right-handed setup man, was dealt to Atlanta in the deal that brought Ramirez aboard. Chris Reitsma, who began the 2006 season as the Braves' closer before going down with an elbow injury, will take over setup duties. Righthander Julio Mateo will play an important role as well, and Jon Huber might surprise here. George Sherrill leads a good, if relatively inexperienced, cast of left-handed arms that includes Ryan Feierabend and Eric O'Flaherty.

Middle Infield The Mariners are both young and talented up the middle. Second baseman Jose Lopez led the club in RBIs for much of the first 10 weeks of the season and wound up making the All-Star team as he settled into the second base job after having come up as a shortstop. Shortstop Yuniesky Betancourt's highly developed defense (range and arm are both terrific) is a major asset for the pitching staff, and he is proving to be a clutch hitter, too. Together, they are a combination that could shine for seasons to come.

Corners Third baseman Adrian Beltre finally had his offense kick in during the second half of last season, and first baseman Richie Sexson, while having a less productive year than in 2005, still put up some big numbers. The Mariners need power and RBIs from this pair; if they get them, the club has a chance to be pretty good. If they don't, then it's going to be a long season. Beltre had much support for Gold Glove at third, although he didn't get the nod. Sexson's defense has been slipping the last couple of years.

KENJI JOHJIMA
catcher

Otto Greule Jr./Getty Images

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

CF Ichiro Suzuki
Move to center allows Mariners to get more power into the lineup.

DH Jose Vidro
Two years of knee problems made him just average.

3B Adrian Beltre
Finally finding a home in the American League.

LF Raul Ibanez
Provides a powerful left-handed bat in the middle of the order.

1B Richie Sexson
He's good for 30 homers and 100 RBIs every season.

RF Jose Guillen
Power may be negated some by hitting in Safeco Field.

C Kenji Johjima
A full year in the big leagues can only help his pitch calling.

2B Jose Lopez
Has a chance to move up in the lineup.

SS Yuniesky Betancourt
Stellar defender is proving to be a good clutch hitter as well.

BENCH

C Rene Rivera
Could use more playing time at Triple-A.

UT Willie Bloomquist
Can play anywhere on the field, but he hasn't always hit.

UT Mike Morse
Seems ready to be a big league hitter but has issues defensively.

1B/DH Ben Broussard
Doesn't figure to get too many at-bats with the addition of Vidro.

CF Jeremy Reed
Could be moved if the right trade comes along.

ROTATION

RHP Felix Hernandez
More run support will help hard thrower flourish.

LHP Jarrod Washburn
Going six games under .500 (8–14) wasn't what he anticipated.

RHP Miguel Batista
Savvy veteran has never been a big winner.

LHP Horacio Ramirez
Team hoping that he can recapture the feel of his rookie campaign.

RHP Cha Seung Baek
Went 4–1 with a 3.67 down the stretch in '06.

BULLPEN

RHP J.J. Putz
Nasty splitter made him effective as a closer.

RHP Chris Reitsma
Signed in the offseason to serve as Putz's setup man.

RHP Julio Mateo
Went 3–0 with a 2.19 ERA in 12 games in August.

LHP George Sherrill
He's been one of the most reliable men out of the bullpen.

RHP Jon Huber
Impressive in a 16-game audition in Seattle.

LHP Jake Woods
Won seven games in his first year with the Mariners.

RHP Sean White
Will get a look as a starter but is more likely to relieve.

Outfield Seattle is more solid in the outfield than it has been in years. The decision by Ichiro Suzuki in August to move to center from right field enabled the club to go out in the offseason and add Jose Guillen, who plays nice defense, has a terrific arm and who has some RBI and power potential. Left fielder Raul Ibanez is coming off his finest season — career-high 33 homers and 123 RBIs — and he seems more and more comfortable batting in the heart of the Seattle lineup. With Ichiro and Guillen, Seattle has two of the toughest outfield arms to run against in all of major league baseball.

Catching After learning on the job in 2006, Kenji Johjima figures to be stronger for the troubles he went through. He hit, maybe a little bit better than had been expected. But he had defensive troubles, both calling the game and communicating with his pitchers, and his ability to block pitches was called into question more than once. He improved as he went along, however, and the Mariners are counting on that improvement continuing.

DH/Bench Jose Vidro, picked up from the Nationals in a December trade, has been hurt most of the last two seasons. Before that he was a productive hitter in Montreal and Washington. Now that he's a DH (he will back up at second and third), Seattle is hoping his numbers offensively will return to pre-2005 levels. Ben Broussard gives the club some left-handed power off the bench — 21 HRs in 432 at bats between Cleveland and Seattle — but he could be traded because of salary issues and a perceived lack of available playing time. Catcher Rene Rivera is solid defensively but won't get that much playing time behind Johjima. Mike Morse can play some shortstop, second, third (he came up as a shortstop) and left field and is a promising right-handed hitter off the bench. Willie Bloomquist once again will be Seattle's jack-of-all-trades.

Management Mike Hargrove takes the field in 2007 with probably his best lineup. But in a competitive division like the AL West, he may not have the pitching to compete. This is a critical juncture for Hargrove in Seattle as he starts his third season. If he doesn't put a winner on the field in 2007, he's not likely to be back in 2008. The same is true for general manager Bill Bavasi, who has taken three consecutive last-place finishes and can't afford a fourth.

Final Analysis Seattle has something of a new look, but the Mariners have many of their old problems, including too little starting pitching. There are many who say the offense, with the additions of Guillen and Vidro, is the best in the division, but that has yet to be proven; too often the last couple of seasons, the offense has disappeared for games on end. The defense is the core of the team, and if Seattle can get someone to do setup work for Putz with the same kind of success Soriano had, that will go a long way toward making 2007 a season worth watching.

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Ichiro Suzuki
High-Dividend Hurler: Felix Hernandez
Buy Recommendation: Jose Lopez
Sell Recommendation: Ben Broussard
Medical (In)Securities: Jose Guillen
IPO: RHP Cha Seung Baek
Futures Market: OF Adam Jones
Insider Tip: Kenji Johjima will be even better this time around.

STATLINE

Most RBI by 22-or-Younger 2B Since World War II

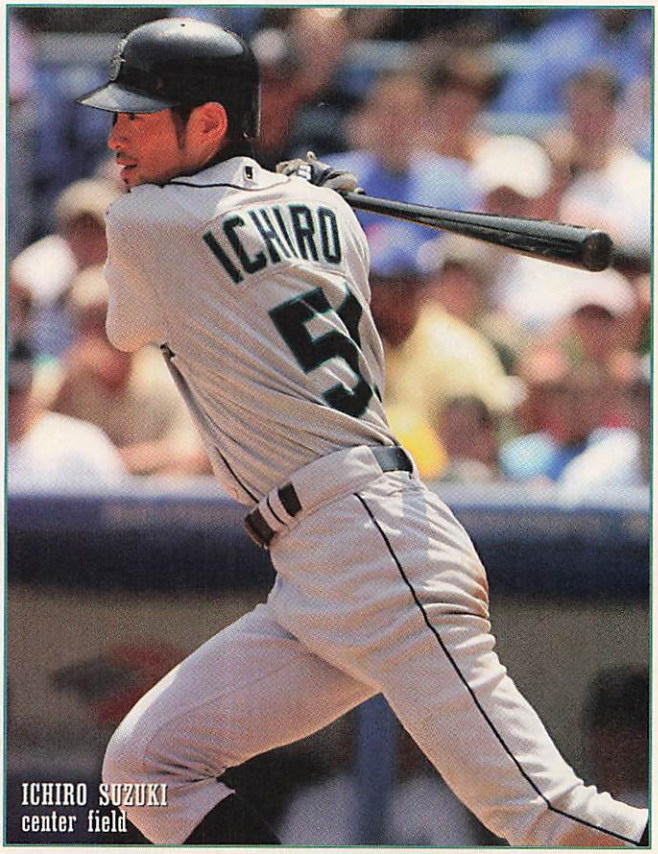
1.	**Jose Lopez**	**79**	**(2006)**
2t.	Bill Mazeroski	68	(1958)
2t.	Gregg Jefferies	68	(1990)
4.	Dick McAuliffe	63	(1962)
5t.	Paul Molitor	62	(1979)
5t.	Robinson Cano	62	(2005)

STATISTICIAN

6 Consecutive 200-hit seasons for Ichiro Suzuki entering the 2007 season.
.533 Richie Sexson's average (8-for-15) with the bases loaded in 2006, including five grand slams. Of his 107 RBIs, 31 came in bases-loaded situations.
40 Consecutive successful stolen-base attempts for Ichiro Suzuki, an ongoing club record.
13 Number of Mariners who made their major league debut in 2006.
50 Career triples for Ichiro, the new club record for three-base hits.
17.2 Consecutive shutout innings for Mark Lowe after being promoted from Double-A. Lowe will start the 2007 season on the disabled list.
.323 Jose Lopez's average in September, after July's .263 and August's .274.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Felix Hernandez went 12–14 in his first year as a starter. He is still just 21, and the Mariners see him as ready to break through. Last year, he was held back by the Mariners, who wanted to keep his total innings pitched — spring training and regular season — to right around 200. There will be fewer restrictions this year, but if he pitches to form and the offense produces a little more run support, he could win 15 or more games.



ICHIRO SUZUKI
center field

Rich Rilling/MLB/Getty Images; Morrow: Bill Mitchell

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

SAD STREAK The Mariners come into the season with three consecutive losing seasons. That was the first time they've done that since 1988-90.

SAFECO SURGE After starting the season 7–12 at Safeco Field, the Mariners went 37–25 at home the rest of the way. At 44–37, Seattle had a winning record at home for the first time since 2003.

LOSING INTEREST The Mariners averaged 30,626 fans for the 2006 season. But over the longer term, the club's numbers have fallen steadily. Without improvement, the Mariners face their first sub-30,000 attendance average since Safeco Field opened midway through the 1999 season.

F'S AGAINST THE A'S Seattle had a 15-game losing streak against the A's, the longest streak for the Mariners to any one team in a season.

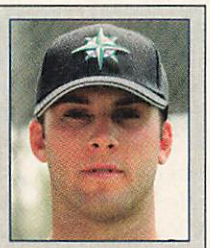
INTERLEAGUE BULLIES The Mariners finished under .500 for the season, but Seattle was 14–4 against the National League West.

RAUL THE RUN-PRODUCER Left fielder Raul Ibanez drove in a career-best 123 runs, tied for the 10th-best total in club history.

BOPPERS For the first time since 2003, the Mariners are coming into a season with three players on the roster who had at least 20 homers the year before — Ibanez, Richie Sexson, and Adrian Beltre.

FREE SWINGERS Seattle's offensive troubles last year included finishing 13th in the AL in on-base percentage. The success in 2007 will depend greatly on improving that number.

THE FARM SYSTEM



2006 Top Draft Pick

Righthander **Brandon Morrow**, out of the University of California, was throwing in the high 90s when he was drafted. He had some arm trouble after signing and was limited to seven games (four starts) and went 0–2 with a 2.77 ERA in the Arizona Rookie League. His arm is sound again, and he'll probably get a quick look during spring training. He's lprojected to be ready to pitch at Class A this season with the idea he's at Double-A in 2008 and in the big leagues by the end of the 2009 season.

Prospects

RHP Sean Green His first year was decent, and the back problems of '06 are history; he could break through in 2007.

OF Adam Jones A former No. 1 pick as a shortstop who has been converted to center field, he's going to have to wait before breaking into the outfield.

LHP Eric O'Flaherty Lefties hit just .238 against him, and he showed enough that he is a legit candidate for the bullpen.

C Jeff Clement A lefty hitter with middle-of-the-lineup power, he's a player teams ask about in trade talks.

LHP Ryan Feierabend He jumped from Double-A last season and could get a look in the rotation, although he'd be a longshot.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Mike Hargrove **COACHES:** Rafael Chaves, Carlos Garcia, Mike Goff, John McLaren, Jeff Pentland, Jim Slaton

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
58	Cha Seung Baek	R-R	5/29/80	**SEATTLE**	**4-1**	**3.67**	**6**	**0**	**34.1**	**23**
				Tacoma (AAA)	12-4	3.00	24	0	147.0	103
	Miguel Batista	R-R	2/19/71	**ARIZONA**	**11-8**	**4.58**	**34**	**0**	**206.1**	**110**
36	Yorman Bazardo	R-R	7/11/84	San Antonio (AA)	6-5	3.64	25	0	138.1	80
48	Travis Blackley	L-L	11/4/82	Tacoma (AAA)	1-1	4.09	2	0	11.0	5
				San Antonio (AA)	8-11	4.06	25	0	144.0	100
63	Ryan Feierabend	L-L	8/22/85	**SEATTLE**	**0-1**	**3.71**	**4**	**0**	**17.0**	**11**
				San Antonio (AA)	9-12	4.28	28	0	153.2	127
54	Sean Green	R-R	4/20/79	**SEATTLE**	**0-0**	**4.50**	**24**	**0**	**32.0**	**15**
				Tacoma (AAA)	4-1	2.25	15	5	24.0	12
34	Felix Hernandez	R-R	4/8/86	**SEATTLE**	**12-14**	**4.52**	**31**	**0**	**191.0**	**176**
60	Jon Huber	R-R	7/7/81	**SEATTLE**	**2-1**	**1.08**	**16**	**0**	**16.2**	**11**
				Tacoma (AAA)	3-1	2.61	29	12	41.1	38
				San Antonio (AA)	0-3	4.88	21	11	24.0	19
63	Cesar Jimenez	L-L	11/12/84	**SEATTLE**	**0-0**	**14.73**	**4**	**0**	**7.1**	**3**
				Tacoma (AAA)	5-10	4.36	24	3	107.1	66
				San Antonio (AA)	0-2	2.76	3	0	16.1	10
57	Mark Lowe	R-R	6/7/83	**SEATTLE**	**1-0**	**1.93**	**15**	**0**	**18.2**	**20**
				San Antonio (AA)	0-2	2.16	11	4	16.2	14
				Inland Empire (A)	1-0	1.84	13	2	29.1	46
40	Julio Mateo	R-R	8/22/79	**SEATTLE**	**9-4**	**4.19**	**48**	**0**	**53.2**	**31**
59	Eric O'Flaherty	L-L	2/2/85	**SEATTLE**	**0-0**	**4.09**	**15**	**0**	**11.0**	**6**
				Tacoma (AAA)	1-0	0.00	2	0	3.2	4
				San Antonio (AA)	2-2	1.14	25	7	39.1	36
				Inland Empire (A)	0-1	3.45	16	1	28.2	31
20	J.J. Putz	R-R	2/22/77	**SEATTLE**	**4-1**	**2.30**	**72**	**36**	**78.1**	**104**
	Horacio Ramirez	L-L	11/24/79	**ATLANTA**	**5-5**	**4.48**	**14**	**0**	**76.1**	**37**
				Richmond (AAA)	1-1	5.68	3	0	12.2	10
	Chris Reitsma	R-R	12/31/72	**ATLANTA**	**1-2**	**8.68**	**27**	**8**	**28.0**	**13**
	Ryan Rowland-Smith	L-L	1/26/83	San Antonio (AA)	1-3	2.83	23	4	41.1	48
				Inland Empire (A)	0-1	5.68	7	0	6.1	9
52	George Sherrill	L-L	4/19/77	**SEATTLE**	**2-4**	**4.28**	**72**	**1**	**40.0**	**42**
56	Jarrod Washburn	L-L	8/13/74	**SEATTLE**	**8-14**	**4.67**	**31**	**0**	**187.0**	**103**
	Sean White	R-R	4/25/81	Mississippi (AA)	5-6	4.40	21	1	102.1	73
				GCL Braves (R)	0-0	0.00	3	0	7.0	6
49	Jacob Woods	L-L	9/3/81	**SEATTLE**	**7-4**	**4.20**	**37**	**1**	**105.0**	**66**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
2	Kenji Johjima	R-R	6/8/76	**SEATTLE**	**.291**	**140**	**506**	**61**	**18**	**76**	**3**
30	Rene Rivera	R-R	7/31/83	**SEATTLE**	**.152**	**34**	**99**	**8**	**2**	**4**	**1**
				Tacoma (AAA)	.667	1	3	1	0	0	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
29	Adrian Beltre	R-R	4/7/79	**SEATTLE**	**.268**	**156**	**620**	**88**	**25**	**89**	**11**
3	Yuniesky Betancourt	R-R	1/31/82	**SEATTLE**	**.289**	**156**	**558**	**68**	**8**	**47**	**11**
16	Willie Bloomquist	R-R	11/27/77	**SEATTLE**	**.247**	**86**	**251**	**36**	**1**	**15**	**16**
23	Ben Broussard	L-L	9/24/76	**SEATTLE**	**.238**	**56**	**164**	**17**	**8**	**17**	**2**
				CLEVELAND	**.321**	**88**	**268**	**44**	**13**	**46**	**0**
22	Greg Dobbs	L-R	7/2/78	**SEATTLE**	**.370**	**21**	**27**	**4**	**0**	**3**	**0**
				Tacoma (AAA)	.314	99	379	60	9	55	15
	Michael Garciaparra	R-R	4/2/83	Tacoma (AAA)	.316	42	136	26	1	10	3
				San Antonio (AA)	.305	28	105	13	1	16	1
	Bryan Lahair	R-R	11/5/82	Tacoma (AAA)	.327	54	202	36	10	44	3
				San Antonio (AA)	.293	60	222	22	6	30	0
4	Jose Lopez	R-R	11/24/83	**SEATTLE**	**.282**	**150**	**603**	**78**	**10**	**79**	**5**
12	Michael Morse	R-R	3/22/82	**SEATTLE**	**.372**	**19**	**43**	**5**	**0**	**11**	**1**
				Tacoma (AAA)	.258	57	206	23	5	34	0
61	Oswaldo Navarro	S-R	10/2/84	**SEATTLE**	**.667**	**4**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Tacoma (AAA)	.246	55	183	15	2	21	1
				San Antonio (AA)	.267	79	266	27	1	24	7
44	Richie Sexson	R-R	12/29/74	**SEATTLE**	**.264**	**158**	**591**	**75**	**34**	**107**	**1**
	Jose Vidro	S-R	8/27/74	**WASHINGTON**	**.289**	**126**	**463**	**52**	**7**	**47**	**1**
				Harrisburg (AA)	.250	3	8	0	0	1	0
				Potomac (A)	.333	1	3	0	0	0	0

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
62	Wladimir Balentien	R-R	7/2/84	San Antonio (AA)	.230	121	444	76	22	82	14
6	Jose Guillen	R-R	5/17/76	**WASHINGTON**	**.216**	**69**	**241**	**28**	**9**	**40**	**1**
28	Raul Ibanez	L-R	6/2/72	**SEATTLE**	**.289**	**159**	**626**	**103**	**33**	**123**	**2**
25	Adam Jones	R-R	8/1/85	**SEATTLE**	**.216**	**26**	**74**	**6**	**1**	**8**	**3**
				Tacoma (AAA)	.287	96	380	69	16	62	13
7	Jeremy Reed	L-L	6/15/81	**SEATTLE**	**.217**	**63**	**212**	**27**	**6**	**17**	**2**
51	Ichiro Suzuki	L-R	10/22/73	**SEATTLE**	**.322**	**161**	**695**	**110**	**9**	**49**	**45**
	Michael Wilson	S-R	6/29/83	San Antonio (AA)	.245	67	249	32	12	43	1
				Inland Empire (A)	.315	52	200	38	9	38	4

Texas Rangers

2007 Prediction: 2nd

2006 Finish: 80–82

AL West

The issues are the same for the Rangers, but the approach is all new. The Rangers, who are the only AL West team to not reach the postseason in the 21st century, are still searching for contending pitching. It's been the club's age-old problem. The Rangers hope that the positive energy of new manager Ron Washington, combined with perhaps the league's best infield and another rebuilt pitching staff, will be enough to end the seven-year playoff drought.

Rotation Kevin Millwood and Vicente Padilla each made more than 30 starts, won at least 15 games, pitched at least 200 innings and struck out at least 150 batters. They are the only two Rangers to accomplish that feat in the last 10 years. The rest of the rotation is unproven, but the Rangers believe it is ready to blossom. The team acquired 23-year-old Brandon McCarthy in a deal that sent top pitching prospect John Danks to the Chicago White Sox. McCarthy has already served his apprenticeship with a year in the White Sox bullpen. He has a dozen major league starts — including 7.2 innings of two-hit shutout ball in Arlington. Robinson Tejeda, who had an impressive audition after being recalled in mid-August, will be the No. 4 guy. Tejeda was 4–2 with a 2.32 ERA in his final nine games and, at 25, the Rangers think he's in perfect position to break out. The Rangers will audition for the fifth spot in spring with Kameron Loe and John Koronka, both of whom lost rotation jobs last year, and Josh Rupe, who would likely have opened 2006 in the rotation if not for an elbow injury.

MARK TEIXEIRA
first base

Bullpen If everybody is healthy, the 2007 bullpen could be the club's best ever. The biggest "if" is closer Eric Gagne, who is on a one-year deal after pitching only 15.1 innings over the last two seasons because of back and elbow problems. Gagne has converted 96.4 percent of his save chances, which is best all-time among pitchers with as many as 100 chances. With Gagne on hand, Akinori Otsuka, who did an admirable job as a fill-in closer last year, moves back into the setup role for which the Rangers acquired him. Another key arm is Frank Francisco, who was unhittable as a rookie in 2004. He's been beset by elbow problems the last two seasons but returned to the majors last September. Side-arming rookie Wes Littleton pitched well in a setup role but could be even more effective in a seventh-inning role. The lefties are hard-throwing C.J. Wilson and veteran Ron Mahay. The Rangers also have a pair of durable long-relief guys in Rick Bauer and Joaquin Benoit. Given the heat's toll on pitchers, having more than one multiple-inning guy is a huge asset.

Middle Infield Shortstop Michael Young has four consecutive 200-hit, .300 seasons, set a club record with 52 doubles in '06, led the AL in average with runners in scoring position and his chances in the field have progressively increased while his errors have decreased. If he played in New York, he'd be known as Derek Jeter. The Rangers think they have a Young-in-waiting in second baseman Ian Kinsler, though he struggled in September. He moved from short to second in the minors in '05 and is learning the nuances of the position.

Corners The Rangers know what to expect from first baseman Mark Teixeira: 30-plus homers, 100-plus RBIs and Gold Glove defense. It's the other corner that is among this team's biggest issues. Third baseman Hank Blalock enters a critical season in terms of defining his career. Blalock hit .300 with 29 homers in 2003, but his offensive production has diminished steadily. Thanks in part to a shoulder injury that limited him to DH duties for the final month of the season, Blalock hit just .266 with 16 homers and 89 RBIs. His OPS has fallen from .872 in 2003 to .726 last year. In addition, Blalock's defensive range has also decreased. That's where new manager Washington comes in. A renowned infield instructor with Oakland, Washington helped Eric Chavez win six consecutive Gold Gloves.

Outfield The success of this club offensively hinges on an outfield of guys trying to come back, hang on or break in. Left fielder Brad Wilkerson's .222 average was the second-lowest in the AL by any player with at least 300 at-bats. Wilkerson was hampered by a shoulder injury that ended his season and required surgery. He's fully healthy for the first time since 2004 when he hit 32 homers. Kenny Lofton is now 39 and just a one-year fix in center, but the Rangers will ask him to leadoff and hope he can extend his string of .300 seasons to three. Lofton can still run down balls as well as most center fielders, but his arm will be a definite dropoff from Gary Matthews Jr. In right, the Rangers will look to Nelson Cruz, acquired from Milwaukee at the trade deadline. Cruz has prodigious power but has struggled with breaking balls.

Catching Texas let Rod Barajas walk in free agency to make room for Gerald Laird, who had a strong start and a lousy finish as the

STATLINE

Most Batters Hit by Pitches, Last 5 Years

1. **Vicente Padilla** **66**
2. Jeff Weaver 64
3. Tim Wakefield 58
4. Chan Ho Park 56
5. Victor Zambrano 55

Teixeira and Blalock: Steve Moore

backup in '06. Laird hit above .300 for most of the year but faded in September when playing every day, and he's still not shown much ability to hit right-handed pitching. He's got a strong arm but is still learning game-calling skills.

DH/Bench Outside of DH Frank Catalanotto, the bench is completely undecided and will be a major focus in spring training. A mid- to late-spring waiver wire addition is likely. Guillermo Quiroz and Miguel Ojeda will compete for the backup catching job. Marlon Byrd and Freddy Guzman are spare center fielders, and Jason Botts and Victor Diaz are the in-house candidates to be extra corner outfielders/right-handed DHs. The likely backup infielder is veteran Jerry Hairston Jr., who had a poor 2006 season, but is capable of playing multiple positions.

Management After four years under Showalter, the club seemed to tune out his intense, smile-less style. Enter Washington, who spent 10 years in the major leagues as a player, and said at his introduction that he would be a "player's manager." As a player and over the last 11 years as a coach with Oakland, Washington earned the reputation as a positive, high-energy guy who has found ways to connect with all kinds of players. That kind of approach may be just what the Rangers need to reach their full potential. It's worth noting that both of Showalter's previous clubs won the World Series the year after he left.

Final Analysis The Rangers have long been known for imposing lineups, but weak pitching. They seem to be making a real effort to adjust that. While the lineup appears to be the least intimidating the club has placed on the field in some time, the pitching staff has the potential to be the best in recent history. The staff may not yet be the dominant one in the AL West, but it is gaining ground. Under the positive influence of new manager Ron Washington, the Rangers should improve over last year's 80 win total.

HANK BLALOCK
third base

FANTASY TICKER

Blue Chip Bopper: Mark Teixeira
High-Dividend Hurler: Kevin Millwood
Buy Recommendation: Gerald Laird
Sell Recommendation: Akinori Otsuka
Medical (In)Securities: Eric Gagne
IPO: RHP Edinson Volquez
Futures Market: RHP Eric Hurley
Insider Tip: Hank Blalock will return to 2004 form.

STATISTICIAN

22 Total career wins for Loe, Koronka, Volquez and Rupe, who will vie for the fifth rotation spot.
357 Doubles by the Rangers last year, which set a team record and tied for sixth all-time.
4 Number of players who had at least 40 doubles, making them the first team in more than 70 years with such a quartet.
183 Home runs hit by the Rangers in 2006, which was the fewest the club hit since 2000.
77 The dropoff in home runs from 2005, when the Rangers set a club record with 260, to 2006.
41 Road wins for the Rangers, who went 41–40. It was the club's first winning road record since 1999 and only the fifth winning road record since the club moved to Texas.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Pitching is always the Rangers' key issue. Last year, they got a career-best 15 wins as well as 200 innings from **Vicente Padilla**. But he also occasionally zoned out and seemed to want to exit the mound. He could get away with that since he was acquired for nothing. But now he's the No. 2 starter, sporting an $11 million salary. If he teams with Kevin Millwood to give the Rangers a solid 1-2 combo, it will relieve a significant burden off the unproven back half of the rotation.

LINEUP

BATTING ORDER

CF Kenny Lofton
Still capable of tracking down fly balls, legging out hits.

DH Frank Catalanotto
Will sit vs. lefties; Rangers still seeking right-handed options.

SS Michael Young
.393 average with two outs, RISP over last four seasons.

1B Mark Teixeira
He's won consecutive Gold Gloves; has played 446 straight games.

3B Hank Blalock
Change in managers should make this a huge season for him.

2B Ian Kinsler
The most feared rookie in the AL last season.

LF Brad Wilkerson
Looking to rebound from poor '06 entering free agency year.

C Gerald Laird
Excellent arm; takes on responsibilities of full-time starter.

RF Nelson Cruz
If he can hit big-league breaking ball, he'll move up in the lineup.

BENCH

OF Marlon Byrd
Athletic, but hitting just .238 over last three seasons.

OF/DH Jason Botts
Disciplined switch-hitter could be Rangers' DH from right side.

C Miguel Ojeda
Will compete with Guillermo Quiroz for backup catching spot.

INF Jerry Hairston Jr.
Hit .153 vs. lefties, more than 100 points lower than his career.

ROTATION

RHP Kevin Millwood
In position to win 20 games if he avoids slow start of 2006.

RHP Vicente Padilla
Will he be motivated after signing three-year, $34 million deal?

RHP Brandon McCarthy
23-year-old who apprenticed in White Sox bullpen last year.

RHP Robinson Tejeda
Development stunted in Dominican Republic's WBC bullpen.

RHP Josh Rupe
Has best stuff from group of contenders.

BULLPEN

RHP Eric Gagne
He'll rely on curve-change combo more than fastball.

RHP Akinori Otsuka
Impressive strike-thrower moves back to setup role.

RHP Wes Littleton
Compiled a 9–2 record and 1.46 ERA at three different levels.

RHP Frank Francisco
Next hurdle: overcoming stress from '04 chair-tossing incident.

LHP C.J. Wilson
Converted starter can face one hitter or go multiple innings.

LHP Ron Mahay
Held lefties to a .240 AVG, but also competitive vs. righties.

2007 ROSTER

MANAGER: Ron Washington **COACHES:** Dom Chiti, Mark Connor, Art Howe, Rudy Jaramillo, Gary Pettis, Don Wakamatsu

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	SO
30	Rick Bauer	R-R	1/10/77	**TEXAS**	**3-1**	**3.55**	**58**	**2**	**71.0**	**35**
53	Joaquin Benoit	R-R	7/26/77	**TEXAS**	**1-1**	**4.86**	**56**	**0**	**79.2**	**85**
35	Francisco Cruceta	R-R	7/4/81	**SEATTLE**	**0-0**	**10.80**	**4**	**0**	**6.2**	**2**
				Tacoma (AAA)	13-9	4.38	28	0	160.1	185
39	Scott Feldman	L-R	2/7/83	**TEXAS**	**0-2**	**3.92**	**36**	**0**	**41.1**	**30**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	2-2	1.98	23	4	27.1	24
50	Frank Francisco	R-R	9/11/79	**TEXAS**	**0-1**	**4.91**	**8**	**0**	**7.1**	**6**
				Frisco (AA)	0-0	1.84	13	0	14.2	22
				Spokane (A)	0-0	0.00	4	0	4.0	6
38	Eric Gagné	R-R	1/7/76	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**0-0**	**0.00**	**2**	**1**	**2.0**	**3**
				Las Vegas (AAA)	0-0	0.00	2	2	2.0	3
45	Armando Galarraga	R-R	1/15/82	Frisco (AA)	1-6	5.49	9	0	41.0	38
				Bakersfield (A)	0-1	6.23	2	0	8.2	7
				Spokane (A)	0-1	4.50	1	0	4.0	3
				AZL Rangers (R)	0-2	3.31	6	0	16.1	16
46	Daniel Haigwood	R-L	11/19/83	Frisco (AA)	1-2	3.63	12	0	62.0	57
				Reading (AA)	2-5	3.54	15	0	84.0	85
41	John Koronka	L-L	7/3/80	**TEXAS**	**7-7**	**5.69**	**23**	**0**	**125.0**	**61**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	0-1	4.12	3	0	19.2	17
58	Wes Littleton	R-R	9/2/82	**TEXAS**	**2-1**	**1.73**	**33**	**1**	**36.1**	**17**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	4-1	2.16	13	2	16.2	15
				Frisco (AA)	3-0	0.66	17	3	27.1	25
43	Kameron Loe	R-R	9/10/81	**TEXAS**	**3-6**	**5.86**	**15**	**0**	**78.1**	**34**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	1-2	9.13	13	1	22.2	21
				Frisco (AA)	0-1	5.14	2	0	7.0	4
32	Ron Mahay	L-L	6/28/71	**TEXAS**	**1-3**	**3.95**	**62**	**0**	**57.0**	**56**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	0-1	1.42	5	2	6.1	11
55	Brandon McCarthy	R-R	7/7/83	**CHICAGO AL**	**4-7**	**4.68**	**53**	**0**	**84.2**	**69**
33	Kevin Millwood	R-R	12/24/74	**TEXAS**	**16-12**	**4.52**	**34**	**0**	**215.0**	**157**
47	A.J. Murray	S-L	3/17/82	DID NOT PLAY						
51	Alexi Ogando	R-R	10/5/83	DSL Rangers (R)	5-0	0.52	16	2	34.2	48
40	Akinori Otsuka	R-R	1/13/72	**TEXAS**	**2-4**	**2.11**	**63**	**32**	**59.2**	**47**
44	Vicente Padilla	R-R	9/27/77	**TEXAS**	**15-10**	**4.50**	**33**	**0**	**200.0**	**156**
48	John Rheinecker	L-L	5/29/79	**TEXAS**	**4-6**	**5.86**	**21**	**0**	**70.2**	**28**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	4-5	2.52	15	0	93.0	68
59	Josh Rupe	R-R	8/18/82	**TEXAS**	**0-1**	**3.41**	**16**	**0**	**29.0**	**14**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	1-1	3.38	12	2	13.1	4
				Frisco (AA)	0-0	10.50	6	0	6.0	3
55	Robinson Tejeda	R-R	3/24/82	**TEXAS**	**5-5**	**4.28**	**14**	**0**	**73.2**	**40**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	6-2	3.15	15	0	80.0	79
				AZL Rangers (R)	0-0	6.75	2	0	5.0	6
31	Edinson Volquez	R-R	7/3/83	**TEXAS**	**1-6**	**7.29**	**8**	**0**	**33.1**	**15**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	6-6	3.21	21	0	120.2	130
36	C.J. Wilson	L-L	11/18/80	**TEXAS**	**2-4**	**4.06**	**44**	**1**	**44.1**	**43**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	1-0	2.45	9	2	11.0	17
				Frisco (AA)	0-0	2.70	4	0	3.1	6

No.	Catchers	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
15	Gerald Laird	R-R	11/13/79	**TEXAS**	**.296**	**78**	**243**	**46**	**7**	**22**	**3**
49	Miguel Ojeda	R-R	1/29/75	**TEXAS**	**.308**	**5**	**13**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**0**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	.340	14	47	8	0	4	0
				COLORADO	**.230**	**25**	**74**	**5**	**2**	**11**	**0**
				Colo. Sprs. (AAA)	.288	17	52	11	2	4	1
				Mexico City (Mex.)	.317	27	101	20	2	11	1
26	Guillermo Quiroz	R-R	11/29/81	**SEATTLE**	**.000**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
3	Joaquin Arias	R-R	9/21/84	**TEXAS**	**.545**	**6**	**11**	**4**	**0**	**1**	**0**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	.268	124	493	56	4	49	26
9	Hank Blalock	L-R	11/21/80	**TEXAS**	**.266**	**152**	**591**	**76**	**16**	**89**	**1**
	Jerry Hairston Jr.	R-R	5/29/76	**CHICAGO NL**	**.207**	**38**	**82**	**8**	**0**	**4**	**3**
				TEXAS	**.205**	**63**	**88**	**17**	**0**	**6**	**2**
5	Ian Kinsler	R-R	6/22/82	**TEXAS**	**.286**	**120**	**423**	**65**	**14**	**55**	**11**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	.256	10	39	7	2	6	1
2	Drew Meyer	L-R	8/29/81	**TEXAS**	**.214**	**5**	**14**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	.228	95	364	37	2	28	9
23	Mark Teixeira	S-R	4/11/80	**TEXAS**	**.282**	**162**	**628**	**99**	**33**	**110**	**2**
10	Michael Young	R-R	10/19/76	**TEXAS**	**.314**	**162**	**691**	**93**	**14**	**103**	**7**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Birthdate	2006 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB
20	Jason Botts	S-R	7/26/80	**TEXAS**	**.220**	**20**	**50**	**8**	**1**	**6**	**0**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	.309	63	220	43	13	39	6
				Frisco (AA)	.125	5	16	3	0	2	0
				AZL Rangers (R)	.250	3	12	1	0	1	0
21	Marlon Byrd	R-R	8/30/77	**WASHINGTON**	**.223**	**78**	**197**	**28**	**5**	**18**	**3**
				New Orleans (AAA)	.271	46	155	20	7	29	3
27	Frank Catalanotto	L-R	4/27/74	**TORONTO**	**.300**	**128**	**437**	**56**	**7**	**56**	**1**
17	Nelson Cruz	R-R	7/1/80	**TEXAS**	**.223**	**41**	**130**	**15**	**6**	**22**	**1**
				Nashville (AAA)	.302	104	371	68	20	73	17
25	Victor Diaz	R-R	12/10/81	**NEW YORK NL**	**.182**	**6**	**11**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**
				Norfolk (AAA)	.224	103	379	30	8	38	5
				Oklahoma (AAA)	.385	3	13	1	0	2	0
4	Freddy Guzman	S-R	1/20/81	**TEXAS**	**.286**	**9**	**7**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Oklahoma (AAA)	.282	69	252	45	1	14	31
				Portland (AAA)	.274	30	124	15	2	14	11
7	Kenny Lofton	L-L	5/31/67	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**.301**	**129**	**469**	**79**	**3**	**41**	**32**
6	Brad Wilkerson	L-L	6/1/77	**TEXAS**	**.222**	**95**	**320**	**56**	**15**	**44**	**3**

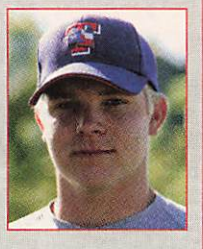
BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

CENTER OF INSTABILITY In their first 13 seasons at Ameriquest Field, the Rangers had 11 different Opening Day center fielders. The 2007 season will make it an even dozen. Kenny Lofton takes over for Gary Matthews Jr., who had perhaps the best season by a center fielder and leadoff man in club history. Matthews signed a five-year, $50 million deal with the Los Angeles Angels. Among those who have been Opening Day Texas Rangers' center fielders: David Hulse, Damon Buford, Bo Porter and Doug Glanville. The only players to start more than one opener in center were Tom Goodwin (1998 and 1999) and Laynce Nix (2004 and 2006).

THIS IS HOWE WE DO IT One problem that new managers often run into is the lack of an experienced voice, a person by whom to run things. That is not the case for Ron Washington. He quickly acted to hire Art Howe, who managed 14 years in the majors, as his bench coach. Washington played for Howe in Houston and then worked on his staff in Oakland.

EXPERIENCE MATTERS Between manager and coaching staff, the Rangers had the least amount of big league playing experience in the majors last year. Only Bobby Jones, who has since returned to manage the Rangers' Triple-A club in Oklahoma, and Don Wakamatsu, who had 18 games as a backup catcher, had big league time. They had combined for 332 games as players. The new staff with Washington, Howe, Gary Pettis and Wakamatsu has 2,656 games of experience.

THE FARM SYSTEM



2006 Top Draft Pick

Left-handed pitching is an advantage at Ameriquest Field in Arlington, and while that's not the only reason the Rangers selected **Kasey Kiker** with the 12th pick, it certainly was part of the equation. Kiker pitched at national power Russell County (Ala.) High School in Phenix City, so the club thought he'd be ready to skip the Arizona Rookie League and go to advanced rookie ball. Though Kiker, who turned 19 in November, finished 0–7 at Spokane in the Northwest League, the numbers were deceiving. He limited hitters to a .232 average and had a more-than-competitive 4.13 ERA while averaging a strikeout per inning. He may start the season at Class A Clinton.

Prospects

RHP Eric Hurley Outstanding heavy sinker and sharp slider; 3–1 with a 1.95 ERA at Double-A after late season promotion.

SS Joaquin Arias Exceptionally fluid athlete, hasn't shown much power or plate discipline, but raw talent abounds.

RHP Thomas Diamond Big, burly body like Rick Helling and similar confidence, but must become more efficient.

RHP Edinson Volquez All he's proven in two short big league auditions is that he's not ready for the majors.

OF John Mayberry After a slow start, the team's 2005 first-round pick has found his swing; he batted .304 over final two months of Class A season.

Bill Mitchell

Put Michael Young in a clutch situation and he's bound to deliver. Aside from batting a league-leading .412 with runners in scoring position in 2006, the Rangers' shortstop delivered the game-winning triple in the 2006 All-Star Game off all-time saves leader Trevor Hoffman. A lifetime .300 hitter, Young has missed only seven games for the Rangers since the start of the 2003 season and has reached the 200-hit plateau in each of the last four seasons. Young is one of the elite players — and role models — in baseball today.

the scoop with Michael Young

Athlon Sports: You are a .300 hitter on the road over the last four years, so what's your favorite city to play in?

Michael Young: I've always enjoyed playing on the road, basically because I get to hit first. In terms of cities, it's a tie between New York and Boston. The minute you walk into those places, it's an absolutely amazing atmosphere. You get locked in because of that atmosphere and it also makes you remember that you are pretty privileged to play Major League Baseball.

AS: What do you do for fun on the road?

MY: I love day games because you get to go out and have a really good dinner. I'm a movie fanatic. I've been known to go to three theaters in a day and see three different movies.

MY: So what was the best flick you caught last year?

MY: The Departed. I'm a big Scorsese guy. His films always have a lot of firepower.

AS: Speaking of firepower, you have quite a bit of it in clutch situations. What's your secret?

MY: I really want those at-bats. I think some guys may try to convince themselves that they want those, but many are concerned of what could go wrong. One thing about me is I've never been afraid to do anything on the field. I'm not afraid to take those kinds of at-bats.

AS: Your triple that keyed the AL's All-Star Game comeback and earned you All-Star Game MVP honors was one of those kinds of at-bats that you just spoke about. Is it the biggest hit of your career.

MY: I don't think so. It was definitely on the biggest stage of my career, but I still look at any hit that helps the Rangers win a game as far more important. I don't want to diminish the All-Star Game one bit. I've been three times and it's still a humbling experience. In any situation, you feed off your teammates. Paul Konerko and Troy Glaus had great at-bats ahead of me, and I saw Mariano Rivera warming up in the bullpen. I knew with one good at-bat, that game was ours.

AS: You've spent the last three All-Star Games pairing up with the best players in the game. But who is one guy you would pay to see play?

MY: Mariano Rivera. You just won't find a more widely-respected player in the game. He's incredibly consistent and always rises up in pressure situations. In my opinion, he's the best closer of all time and maybe the best postseason pitcher, too. I love watching (Derek) Jeter play and Barry Bonds, as a hitter, is still in a class by himself. I've been fortunate enough to watch Manny Ramirez hit on a number of occasions. The list goes on and on.

AS: The one thing you haven't done in your six seasons with the Rangers is advance to the playoffs. You've had losing records in five of those six seasons. What's the toughest part of losing?

MY: In team sports, everything is multiplied. At the end of a golf or tennis tournament, you don't see a bunch of guys throwing champagne down each other's throats. In baseball, it's 25 guys. The rewards are 25 times greater; the defeats are 25 times worse. You feel what everybody else on the team is feeling, whether it's good or bad. In our situation, the fans matter, too. I think the Dallas-Fort Worth area is dying to see a World Series team. We need to find a way to get over the hump.

AS: Is the heat an issue in Texas.

MY: Absolutely not. It's an excuse, nothing more. There is no way the heat has affected everybody. It's not easy, that's for sure. But it's part of the gig here.

AS: What kind of impact will the managerial change from Buck Showalter to Ron Washington have?

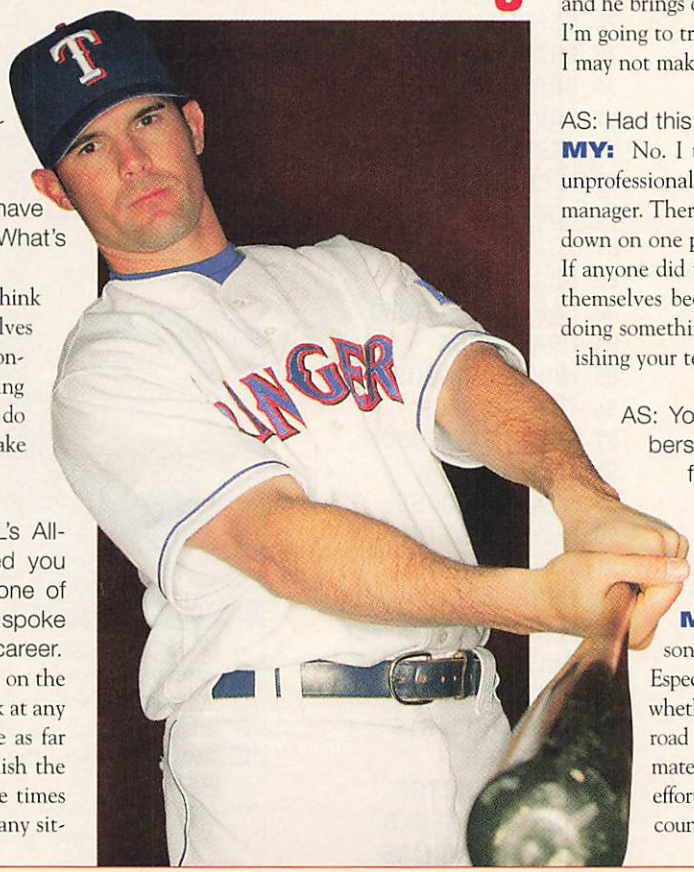
MY: Hopefully, it's nothing but a positive experience. (Washington) is highly-regarded and he brings out the enthusiasm in everybody. I'm going to try and run through walls for him. I may not make it, but I'm going to try.

AS: Had this team tuned out Showalter?

MY: No. I think it would be an incredibly unprofessional thing to do, to 'tune out' your manager. There is no reason for shutting things down on one pitch, let alone an entire season. If anyone did that, they should be ashamed of themselves because if you do that, you aren't doing something to the manager, you are punishing your teammates and yourself.

AS: You've got some gaudy numbers: A .331 average in 2005, four consecutive 200-hit seasons and 52 doubles last year. Is there any set of numbers of which you are especially proud?

MY: I played 162 games last season. That's the top stat for me. Especially in that Texas heat. I know whether it's a Tuesday afternoon on the road or a hot home game, my teammates know they will get the same effort out of me. They know they can count on me. That's important to me.

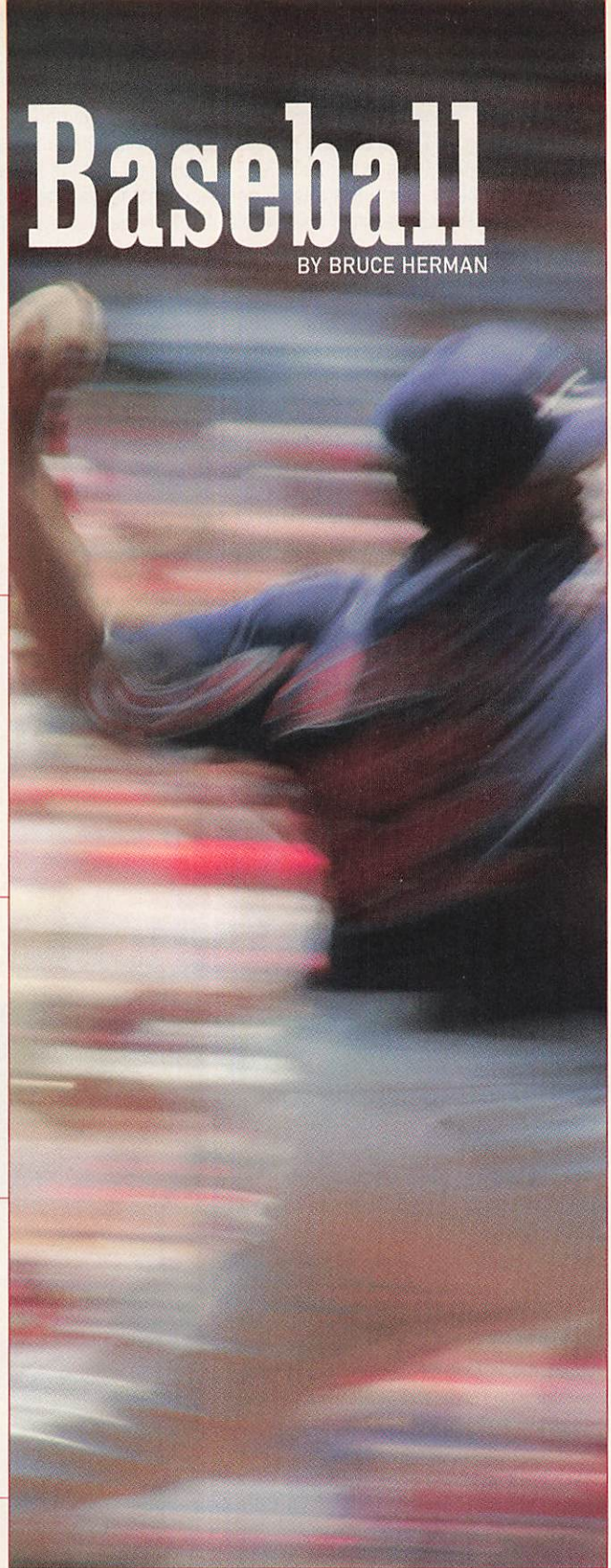


Ronald Martinez/Getty Images

TOP 100 Fantasy Baseball

BY BRUCE HERMAN

1. JOHAN SANTANA	51. BEN SHEETS
2. CARL CRAWFORD	52. ROCCO BALDELLI
3. ALBERT PUJOLS	53. RICH HARDEN
4. JOSE REYES	54. MICHAEL CUDDYER
5. ALEX RODRIGUEZ	55. RYAN ZIMMERMAN
6. VLADIMIR GUERRERO	56. JERED WEAVER
7. ALFONSO SORIANO	57. CHRIS YOUNG (SD)
8. DERREK LEE	58. JAKE PEAVY
9. RYAN HOWARD	59. TREVOR HOFFMAN
10. CHRIS CARPENTER	60. ALEX RIOS
11. MIGUEL CABRERA	61. GARRETT ATKINS
12. GRADY SIZEMORE	62. PRINCE FIELDER
13. BOBBY ABREU	63. CHIEN-MING WANG
14. CARLOS BELTRAN	64. ROBINSON CANO
15. LANCE BERKMAN	65. JONATHAN PAPELBON
16. JIMMY ROLLINS	66. HUSTON STREET
17. JOE MAUER	67. PAUL KONERKO
18. FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ	68. JERMAINE DYE
19. DAVID WRIGHT	69. HIDEKI MATSUI
20. JOE NATHAN	70. ANDRUW JONES
21. ROY OSWALT	71. JOHNNY DAMON
22. ROY HALLADAY	72. CARLOS GUILLEN
23. CHASE UTLEY	73. MICHAEL YOUNG
24. BRANDON WEBB	74. KENJI JOHJIMA
25. MARK TEIXEIRA	75. ERIC CHAVEZ
26. DEREK JETER	76. BRIAN MCCANN
27. VICTOR MARTINEZ	77. ERVIN SANTANA
28. DAVID ORTIZ	78. JEREMY BONDERMAN
29. MATT HOLLIDAY	79. MICHAEL BARRETT
30. MANNY RAMIREZ	80. EDGAR RENTERIA
31. VERNON WELLS	81. J.J. PUTZ
32. ICHIRO SUZUKI	82. BILLY WAGNER
33. CHONE FIGGINS	83. CARLOS DELGADO
34. HANLEY RAMIREZ	84. BRAD LIDGE
35. JUAN PIERRE	85. NICK MARKAKIS
36. MIGUEL TEJADA	86. TORII HUNTER
37. CARLOS ZAMBRANO	87. COREY PATTERSON
38. TRAVIS HAFNER	88. LYLE OVERBAY
39. B.J. RYAN	89. ADAM LAROCHE
40. MARIANO RIVERA	90. RICHIE SEXSON
41. JUSTIN MORNEAU	91. TODD HELTON
42. RAFAEL FURCAL	92. CHRIS RAY
43. RICKIE WEEKS	93. MAGGLIO ORDONEZ
44. SCOTT ROLEN	94. ORLANDO HUDSON
45. ARAMIS RAMIREZ	95. IAN KINSLER
46. C.C. SABATHIA	96. BRIAN ROBERTS
47. JASON BAY	97. J.D. DREW
48. JOHN LACKEY	98. ADRIAN BELTRE
49. WILLY TAVERAS	99. GARY SHEFFIELD
50. CARLOS LEE	100. FRANK THOMAS



Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

A: **FRANCHISE PLAYER:** You almost have to own at least one to win.
B: **CAREER YEAR:** Veteran who has a strong possibility to post his best season.
C: **SLEEPER:** Player who could be a great acquisition at a bargain price.
D: **ROADBLOCKED:** Ranking dropped; no immediate opportunity to play regularly.
E: **DECLINER:** Expect moderately to significantly worse stats than in 2006.
F: **INJURY RISK:** Player with a recent history of injury that could recur.
G: **INVESTOR'S SPECIAL:** Bright future, but minimal impact in 2007.
Number in parentheses indicates last year's preseason ranking.

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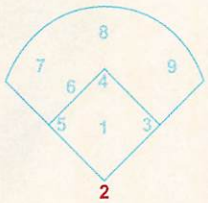
1. JOE MAUER, TWINS (A, B)

If you play in one of those leagues in which you can draft only bank managers, there's one in Minneapolis we recommend — name of Paul Feiner. He's the only kid who ever struck out Joe Mauer in high school. The real guys aren't having much success with Mauer, either. His .347 AVG/84 RBI/79 BBs last year was something no catcher's ever done, and this year, he'll pop 20 homers, too. (2)

2. VICTOR MARTINEZ, INDIANS (A)

If Martinez can shake off the lethargic starts (career .261 AVG before June 1), he's almost as much of a batting crown threat as Mauer. Over the last three years, his 281 RBIs and 168 extra-base hits top the position. (1)

catchers



3. KENJI JOHJIMA, MARINERS

Johjima, who set a league hits record for rookie catchers, made great adjustments for an import. Now he'll bat higher in the order, so we think he'll be even better than his .291-18-76. Had the fewest strikeouts (46) of any AL player with 500 ABs. (10)

4. BRIAN MCCANN, BRAVES

McCann's startling first full season of .333-24-93 put him the company of only Mike Piazza and Gabby Hartnett as catchers to reach those numbers in 450+ PAs. As he's only 23, if your league allows contract extensions, we'd advise tying him up for, like, life. (11)

5. MICHAEL BARRETT, CUBS

Here's big news: In 2006, Barrett became the first player ever to hit exactly 16 HRs in three straight seasons. Here's better news: His .307 AVG and .885 OPS were easily career highs, so he's peaking at a fairly high level — for a catcher. (4)

6. RAMON HERNANDEZ, ORIOLES

Streaky, but a really solid option. Knocked in 87 runs while catching, tore up Camden Yards (.959 OPS) and now has posted AVGs between .273 and .290 four years in a row. (3)

7. RUSSELL MARTIN, DODGERS

Though 23, was so trusted by the Dodgers that he caught more games than anyone in the NL after he was recalled in early May — and the team went 71–43 when he started. McCannish, but with less power. (NR)

8. GERALD LAIRD, RANGERS (B, C)

Injuries have just killed Laird, and he split the job with Rod Barajas last year, but it's his time now. Hit .335 before a September swoon in '06, and we look for 15 HRs and even 10-12 SBs this year. (NR)

9. IVAN RODRIGUEZ, TIGERS

The catching crop is deeper than it's been in a long time, so Pudge's .300-13-69 last year didn't stand out. He's 35 and he's caught more than 15,000 innings, so there may not be a lot of durability in those stats. (9)

10. A.J. PIERZYNSKI, WHITE SOX

Not a difference-maker, but comes recommended for his consistency. He, Rodriguez and Jorge Posada are the only catchers with a modest line of .250-10-50 each of the last four years. (6)

11. JORGE POSADA, YANKEES (E)

Has been a nearly automatic .270-20-80 since the turn of the millennium. Thing is, in the history of baseball, there have been fewer than 10 catchers who've reached any one of those numbers at his age (35) — and only Carlton Fisk reached them all. (8)

12. JOHNNY ESTRADA, BREWERS

Underrated. Legit .300 hitter whose 71 RBIs in 2006 were second in the NL even though he played only 115 games. Should get at least 50 more ABs this year. (16)

Tom DiPace

13. BENGIE MOLINA, GIANTS (E)

Averages .284-14-63 since 2003, which is pretty strong considering he's missed three of every 10 games since he became a "regular" in '00. (13)

14. JASON KENDALL, A'S

Durable career .301 hitter whose 1,200 hits since 2000 are, by far, the most at the position. The past two years, 522 major leaguers have hit at least two homers — and Kendall's not one of them. (18)

15. JASON VARITEK, RED SOX

Mostly a defensive catcher at this point, though in this batting order, he's clutch enough to knock in 70 runs. (5)

16. PAUL LO DUCA, METS (E)

.290 career AVG tops active NL catchers (3,000+ PAs). No power, but gets more RBIs than most No. 2 hitters because Jose Reyes is always on second base. (17)

17. CHRIS IANNETTA, ROCKIES (C)

Swatted .336 in the high minors last year then, after starting 3-for-27 for the Rox, finished 17-for-50 (.340). (NR)

18. ROD BARAJAS, PHILLIES

His 47 HRs the last three years are seductive for a catcher, but the career .240 AVG is a cold shower. (14)

19. RONNY PAULINO, PIRATES (E)

Surprise singles hitter who was the first rookie catcher since Mike Piazza to bat at least .310 and play 100 games. Doing it again would be a bigger surprise. (NR)

20. MIGUEL OLIVO, MARLINS (E)

Though his 16 HRs were a shocker, he hit 11 of them on the first pitch. When the pitchers figured that out, he stalled. (NR)

21. DIONER NAVARRO, DEVIL RAYS
22. JOSH BARD, PADRES (E) (NR)
23. DAVID ROSS, REDS (E) (NR)
24. JOHN BUCK, ROYALS (15)
25. MIGUEL MONTERO, DIAMONDBACKS (G) (NR)

1. ALBERT PUJOLS, CARDINALS (A)

The greatest distance between the first- and second-ranked player at any position is right here. Pujols' stone-cold dependability makes it so: Only he and Babe Ruth have had four straight .330/40-HR years; his lowest career OPS for any month is .991; and he hasn't gone four straight games without a hit since he was a rookie. (1)

2. DERREK LEE, CUBS (A)

His .335-46-107 of 2005 was a once-in-a-lifetime thing for him, but you might get Lee at a small discount because of last year's wrist injury. He swung normally when he got back in September. Lone base-stealing 1B in the game. (2)

3. RYAN HOWARD, PHILLIES (A)

There have been 17 other seasons of 56 or more homers. In 16 of them, the perpetrator hit fewer the following year. We don't think any of them ever did what Howard did late in '06, when he out-homered nine teams over a 15-day period. (13)

4. LANCE BERKMAN, ASTROS (A)

Not a guy who immediately conjures the word "superstar" to your brain, but Berkman owns a better career OPS (.983) than Mark McGwire, Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio and Stan Musial. (4)

5. MARK TEIXEIRA, RANGERS (A)

There was an epidemic of buyer's remorse when he was sitting at eight homers on July 8, then he poked 25 in last 75 games and all was right with the world. It's safe to approach him as a guy who'll nail 45 this time. (3)

6. JUSTIN MORNEAU, TWINS (E)

We pegged Morneau (.239-22-79 in 2005) as a "C" for "sleeper" last year, but the letters we couldn't have anticipated were M, V and P. The 34 HRs will hold up, but the .321 AVG and 130 RBIs will take a moderate hit. (17)

7. PRINCE FIELDER, BREWERS

That he set an NL record for homers (11) by a lefty-hitting rookie off lefty pitchers is a clue that Fielder is going to be monstrous. That he hit 21 of his 28 with the bases empty — hence the same RBI total (81) as Emil Brown and Jose Reyes — was probably a fluke. (16)

8. PAUL KONERKO, WHITE SOX (E)

The 35 HRs and 100 RBIs are a given. His AVGs since 2003 have been .234, .277, .283 and .313. The upward drift is a positive; the huge swing portends some risk. (8)

9. CARLOS DELGADO, METS

Delgado delivers consistent, big-time production: 10 straight 30-HR and 11 straight 90-RBI years. But his AVG (always a moving target) is snuffed out at Shea, where he's a .228 career hitter. (7)

10. ADAM LAROCHE, PIRATES

We were prepared to give him the Rip Van Winkle Award for lifetime achievement as a sleeper when he woke up angry in the second half: .323-19-48 in 66 games. Only projected 2007 starting non-catcher to have played at least 400 games without an SB. (18)

11. LYLE OVERBAY, BLUE JAYS

Always a nice auction value because he lacks the 30-HR glitz and does not look the part. However, we correctly predicted his career year in '06, and Pujols was the only other first baseman to match his .312-22-92 and 5 SBs. (10)

12. RICHIE SEXSON, MARINERS

Averages 38 HRs and 119 RBIs per 162 games in his career, though his .262 AVG the last three years is only 20th among first basemen. (6)

13. TODD HELTON, ROCKIES (F)

One off-year could be an aberration; two smells like a trend. Helton, not long ago the class of this position, has been out-bombed by 27 first basemen and out-ribbied by 25 since 2005. (5)

14. CONOR JACKSON, DIAMONDBACKS (C)

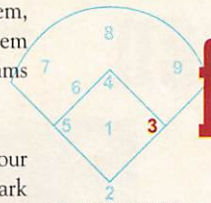
Ranked 20th among first sackers in HRs and 16th in RBIs, but 2006 was just his how-dee-do. Could be this year's LaRoche, but with a higher AVG. (24)

15. AUBREY HUFF, ORIOLES

Power figures have declined three straight years, and he spent between April 9 and June 15 below the Mendoza Line. Has more HRs and RBIs against the O's than any other club. (3 at DH)

16. NOMAR GARCIAPARRA, DODGERS

This is one of the few seasons Nomar won't be a Comeback Player of the Year candidate. Your concern is that he'll qualify again in '08. Solid .303-20-93 in 122 games. (11)



first basemen

17. NICK JOHNSON, NATIONALS (F)

He's Overbay with "911" on his speed dial. Last year, it was a gruesome broken leg that ended the best year of the oft-injured Johnson's career. Per 162 games in '05-06, he was .290-22-85 and 7 SBs. (14)

18. ADRIAN GONZALEZ, PADRES

The 24 HRs were a surprise, the .300 AVG wasn't. Hit below .260 in three months, above .330 the other three. (NR)

19. KEVIN YOUKILIS, RED SOX

A .279-13-72 line won't cut it at 1B. A bump to .300 wouldn't surprise, though the power is problematic. Youk led the AL with 4.4 pitches seen per plate appearance, but the next six on the list averaged 39 homers, so something isn't computing. (23)

20. CASEY KOTCHMAN, ANGELS (C)

Year 4 of the Kotchman watch. Should finally get a full shot after spending most of 2006 poleaxed by a viral infection. His .278-7-22, 47-game zinger in '05 is hard to ignore. (24)

21. DAN JOHNSON, A'S (C)

Flopped last year so the jury's still out on whether he's a prospect (though a 27-year-old one) or merely a Triple-A hellion. We're 60-40 it's the former. (6 at DH)

22. RYAN GARKO, INDIANS (C, G)

Who was the only rookie to homer off Johan Santana last year? Which rookie was third in the AL in RBI (36) after August 20? Improbably, Garko on both counts. (NR)

23. MIKE JACOBS, MARLINS

In 2005, set a record for most jacks (11) by a player who didn't make his MLB debut until August. Played hurt a lot in '06 and slowed the pace to 20 in 136 games. Will scuffle to hit for average. (27)

24. SEAN CASEY, TIGERS (F)

Power paucity and injury history (including a broken back and several concussions) make him tough to recommend, though he's a bona fide .300 hitter when his parts are working. (19)

25. RYAN SHEALY, ROYALS (C)

A lot like Dan Johnson sans the plate patience — same age, same career path. (NR)

26. CASEY BLAKE, INDIANS (NR)
27. TY WIGGINTON, DEVIL RAYS (E) (NR)
28. JAMES LONEY, DODGERS (D, G) (NR)
29. RICH AURILIA, GIANTS (E) (NR)
30. SCOTT THORMAN, BRAVES (C) (NR)

second basemen

1. CHASE UTLEY, PHILLIES (A)

Utley did something only a dozen other players (two of them second basemen — Rogers Hornsby and Alfonso Soriano) before him had done: pepper the box scores with 200 hits, 100 runs, 100 RBIs, 30 HRs and 15 SBs. At 28, he should be peaking — and you should be paying. (2)

2. RICKIE WEEKS, BREWERS

Last year, we compared Weeks to a young Sheffield and ranked him No. 1 despite a sketchy track record. Before he got hurt in July, he projected to circa .280-15-55 and 30 SBs — a tandem of stats no second baseman reached. He'll dwarf those numbers in time. (1)

3. ROBINSON CANO, YANKEES

We whiffed, however, on 15th-ranked Cano, whose .342 average was the highest for a regular second baseman since Rod Carew batted .359 in 1975. Career numbers for September: .377 AVG, 1.043 OPS. (15)

4. ORLANDO HUDSON, DIAMONDBACKS (B)

First, know that there's a chasm between the top three players on this list and the rest. Second, know that Hudson's better than you think. Only Utley, Dan Uggla, Brandon Phillips and Ray Durham were better than him in the NL last year — and all but Utley are candidates to backslide. (12)

5. IAN KINSLER, RANGERS

Among AL regulars at the position, only Cano had a better OPS than this rookie's .801. A 20-20 season would require a leap of faith, but not an unreasonably big one. (30)

6. BRIAN ROBERTS, ORIOLES

Roberts' .314-18-73 of '05 declined to .286-10-55. Anywhere in the range, however, is more than acceptable, considering he stole 11 more bases (36) than any other second sacker. (5)

7. JOSE LOPEZ, MARINERS (C)

After you draft Lopez "too high," ask your buddies who led AL second basemen in RBIs (79) last year. Only 23, he hit .323 in September, but had just one homer after June 2. (22)

8. FELIPE LOPEZ, NATIONALS

Lopez is trying to catch dollar bills in a wind tunnel. His AVG-HR-RBI-SBs: .242-7-31-1 in 2004; .291-23-85-15 in '05; .274-11-52-44 in '06. Now he's in a tougher park, moving from SS to 2B and slated to lead off. (9)

9. TADAHITO IGUCHI, WHITE SOX

Has less upside, but also less downside, than the four players listed above him. So if you're the safety-first type, stuff his .280-15-70 and 12 steals under your mattress. (6)

10. BRANDON PHILLIPS, REDS (E)

Opened 2006 with the lowest career AVG (.206) among active non-pitchers with at least 400 ABs. So his .276-17-75 (25 SBs) was one of the year's bombshells. The .149 September AVG was disquieting. (NR)

11. HOWIE KENDRICK, ANGELS (C)

We can't remember another player with this sort of minor league credential: AVGs of .318, .368, .367, .384, .342 and .369 at his stopovers. A batting title is in his future — with double-digit bombs and bags. (NR)

12. JOSH BARFIELD, INDIANS

Hit .400 in July, but .252 otherwise. Shows 20-20 potential, but why the Pads would trade one of the better 2006 rookies (at a position where they lacked a natural replacement) for a prospect makes us a tad circumspect. (29)

13. DAN UGGLA, MARLINS (E)

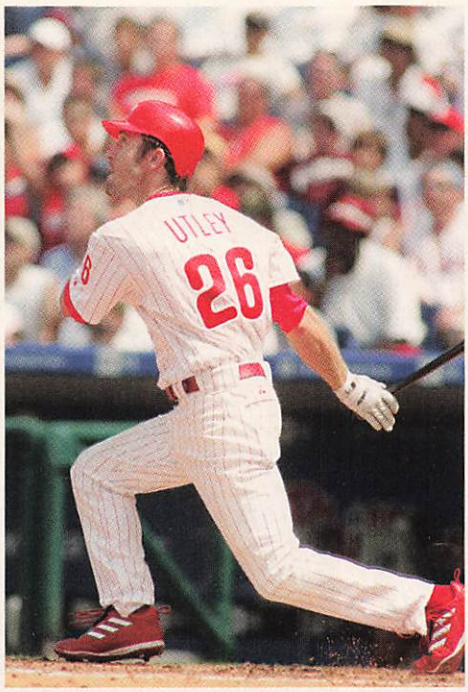
From Rule 5 "prayer" to a rookie second base HR record (27), Uggla was the steal of the year in many leagues. We see him ultimately as a speed-free .260-18-70 guy. (NR)

14. AARON HILL, BLUE JAYS (C)

Strictly a one-trick pony (.291 AVG) in his first full season. Hit four of his six homers in the final month, so maybe there's a little pop on the way. (19)

15. MARCUS GILES, PADRES

Seems, curiously, to be in decline. His .917 OPS of 2003 deteriorated to .729 last year, he looked horrible in September and is a .209 lifetime hacker at Petco. Too much of a track record to discount entirely, though. (4)



16. LUIS CASTILLO, TWINS (E, F)

Has failed to scale .290 only once since 1999, but it was the SB resurgence (from 10 to 25) that put him back on the map last year. Beware: prone to leg injuries and missed time with an ankle and a knee in September. (20)

17. JEFF KENT, DODGERS

At 39 and coming off his first major injury (rib) in a decade, the former 2B fantasy king still can produce, but he's no longer extraordinary because of the risk. (3)

18. JORGE CANTU, DEVIL RAYS

Production (28 HRs, 117 RBIs in 2005) was cut literally in half in a season beset by injuries, illness and mechanical disarray. Should come part of the way back, but vile defense complicates his long-term prospects. (7)

19. RAY DURHAM, GIANTS (E)

The A's once had this guy named Tilly Walker, who capped a nondescript career with 37 HRs in 1922 when he was 34 years old, then hit two more the rest of his career. Durham's not that unstable, but when you post your best OPS by fifty points at that age, the sequel's usually not a blockbuster. (26)

20. KAZ MATSUI, ROCKIES (C)
21. PLACIDO POLANCO, TIGERS
22. ADAM KENNEDY, CARDINALS
23. JOSE CASTILLO, PIRATES
24. MARK DEROSA, CUBS (E)
25. CRAIG BIGGIO, ASTROS (E)
26. MARK GRUDZIELANEK, ROYALS (E) (25)
27. MARK LORETTA, ASTROS (E)
28. MARK ELLIS, A'S (24)
29. TODD WALKER, PADRES (D, E) (13)
30. RONNIE BELLIARD, FREE AGENT (E) (18)

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

third basemen

1. ALEX RODRIGUEZ, YANKEES (A)

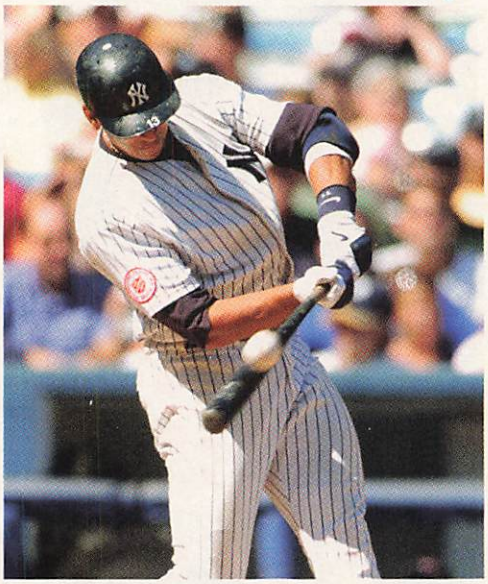
Don't believe the anti-hype. A-Rod's three years have produced an OPS of .945, compared to the 1.011 of his three years in Texas, but even the .945 is the best in history by a third baseman with at least 2,000 plate appearances. Add his 15 to 20 swipes a year, and you've got the best fantasy commodity since the hobby was invented. (1)

2. MIGUEL CABRERA, MARLINS (A, B)

Factoring in the improved patience with the fact that he spent the winter getting in his best shape ever, Cabrera could now be in the Bonds/Pujols/A-Rod zip code. Were he to maintain the pace of his first three full years through age 38, he'd accrue 3,504 hits, 564 HRs and 2,114 RBIs — numbers achieved only by Hank Aaron and Babe Ruth. (5)

3. DAVID WRIGHT, METS (A)

Although he was Mike Schmidt in the first half, Mike Lowell in the second and Mike Gallego in the postseason, Wright's upside is phenomenal. You might have seen his first and last 20-SB season, however. (3)



4. SCOTT ROLEN, CARDINALS

It was a good, but not vintage-Rolen, 2006 season for this fantasy mainstay as he battled back from shoulder surgery. Only 32, he should revisit his customary .300-30-110 territory. (2)

5. ARAMIS RAMIREZ, CUBS

Ramirez never really gets rolling 'til Wrigley fans take their sweaters off (.775 career OPS in April/May, nearly .850 thereafter), but his final damage is always hot stuff. Has gone .298-40-118 per 162 games since joining the Cubs in 2003. (6)

6. RYAN ZIMMERMAN, NATIONALS

Wright Lite. Zim's hits, extra-base knocks and RBIs all were top 5 ever by a third baseman his age (21), and — while he's not a true power hitter — his 20 homers should gradually creep forward. (21)

7. GARRETT ATKINS, ROCKIES

Took it to the proverbial "next level" last year (.329-29-120), and we believe he'll hang around because he walked more than he whiffed, and he wasn't just a Coors Creation (.933 road OPS). (14)

8. ERIC CHAVEZ, A'S

After several years of being rubber-stamped into the uppermost rungs of fantasy cheat sheets, Chavez is going to have to reprove himself. Hasn't hit 30 HRs since 2002, and his AVG the past two years is lower than David Bell's. (7)

9. ADRIAN BELTRE, MARINERS

Although it's already too late to justify the contract his .334-48-121 2004 season got him, Beltre finally seemed to hit some sort of stride with 18 second-half homers last year. He's as fickle as the Seattle climate, but you could do a lot worse. (11)

10. HANK BLALOCK, RANGERS

OPS declined for the third straight year — to .726, 18th among regular third basemen. Still, he leads AL'ers at the position in RBIs since 2003 and, at 26, young enough to do a 180. (7)

11. JOE CREDE, WHITE SOX (F)

HR totals have improved thusly since 2002: 12-19-21-22-30 — though he's yet to drive in 100 runs because he is an over-eager .262 career hitter who bats sixth or seventh in the order. Because of a chronic back problem, he's all rehab, all the time. (19)

12. CHIPPER JONES, BRAVES

Jones has had zero erosion of hitting skills; his 1.005 OPS was his best since 2001. However, he's 35 and has sat out 105 games the past two years. (10)

13. MARK TEAHEN, ROYALS

If you drafted Teahen on our "sleeper" recommendation, you were writing us for a refund round about last May 9, when he lugged his .181 AVG to Omaha. Patience, patience. He was back in June to go .313-16-60 and 8 SBs his last 86 games. (17)

14. EDWIN ENCARNACION, REDS (C)

A bad ankle and a poor September depressed his stats a bit, but the bright side is that he'll be an even bigger steal at your auction. A .285-25-90 projection is reasonable. (22)

15. TROY GLAUS, BLUE JAYS

Strictly a power play. Capable of leaving the yard more times than any other third baseman, but he's hit .260 only once in nine seasons, with an RBI high of 111. (12)

16. CHAD TRACY, DIAMONDBACKS

Was a trendy 2006 darkhorse after his .308-27-72 year in 2005, but his .281 AVG and 20 HRs were more in line with what we can typically expect. (9)

17. MIKE LOWELL, RED SOX

Made a pretty fair comeback from an awful 2005, especially since he didn't hit much at Fenway (.260 there, .310 elsewhere). He and Tracy were separated at birth: .284-20-80 to Chad's .281-20-80 last year. (18)

18. FREDDY SANCHEZ, PIRATES (E)

Cooked up the highest AVG (.344) by a third basemen since Wade Boggs in 1988, and the 85 RBIs were garnish. Has neither speed nor power, and may just have been Placido Polanco with a rabbit's foot. (NR)

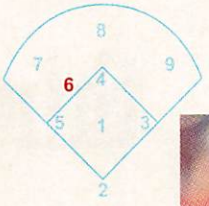
19. MORGAN ENSBERG, ASTROS

Last year, we called Ensberg's .283-36-101 in 2005 "flukey," but his descent to .235-23-58 was downright spooky. Let's split the difference as his true level. (13)

20. BRANDON INGE, TIGERS
21. MELVIN MORA, ORIOLES
22. PEDRO FELIZ, GIANTS
23. AKINORI IWAMURA, DEVIL RAYS
24. WES HELMS, PHILLIES
25. WILSON BETEMIT, DODGERS (B)
26. ALEX GORDON, ROYALS (D, G) (NR)
27. ANDY MARTE, INDIANS (C) (24)
28. KEVIN KOUZMANOFF, PADRES (C) (NR)
29. RYAN BRAUN, BREWERS (G) (NR)
30. JOSE BAUTISTA, PIRATES (NR)

Steve Moore

shortstops



1. JOSE REYES, METS (A)

How many shortstops in history could claim a cycle, a three-bomb game, two stolen base crowns, a Silver Slugger, two triples titles and switch-hit homers in a game — by age 23? Probably just Reyes. Had as many RBIs (81) as a lead-off man as Alfonso Soriano. (4)

2. JIMMY ROLLINS, PHILLIES (A)

Rollins is applying for admission to the 30-30 club. Listless Aprils and an occasionally long swing have kept his averages average, so if he ever scales those minor hurdles, he'll be a true fantasy VIP. (2)

3. DEREK JETER, YANKEES (A)

Jeter turns 33 this summer, yet is coming off his best fantasy season. If he repeats his .343 AVG, 97 RBIs and 34 SBs, he'll be the only shortstop other than Honus Wagner to post those kinds of numbers at that age. Unlikely — but he shouldn't miss by much. (5)

4. HANLEY RAMIREZ, MARLINS (A)

Wow. Ramirez was the first under-23 player ever to combine 40 doubles, 10 triples, 15 homers and 10 swipes — and he had 51 of the latter. The last two rookies to lead the majors in September hits were former Red Sox. They traded Ramirez to the Marlins. They kept the other one: Dave Stapleton. (27)

5. MIGUEL TEJADA, ORIOLES (A)

Seems to be transiting from power to average: .288-31-123 norm from 2000-04, but .317-25-99 in '05-06. Still a guy you want to own, but without the distinctive HR/RBI stats, his dearth of steals shuffles him back into the pack a little. (1)

6. RAFAEL FURCAL, DODGERS

Quietly provided his best fantasy campaign. Reyes and Carl Crawford were the only other players to lace a .300 AVG with 15 homers and 35 steals. (3)

7. CARLOS GUILLEN, TIGERS (F)

Guillen had to turn 30 before getting through a year without a major injury, and he showed what he could do with it: the highest OPS (.919) at the position and a bound from 2 to 20 SBs. Value pick if he avoids banana peels and plummeting Acme anvils. (14)

8. MICHAEL YOUNG, RANGERS

Only Ichiro has more hits since the start of 2004, but Young's driven in 116 more runs. His 14 HRs and 7 SBs last year were blah compared to previous bests of 24 and 13. (5)

9. EDGAR RENTERIA, BRAVES

Appealing for safety and consistency. Block out his blockbuster 2003, though, and bid on his career 150-game average of .288-10-66 and 25 SBs. (7)

10. STEPHEN DREW, DIAMONDBACKS

Drew's offensive potential rivals any at this position, but his lack of track record (59 MLB games) and track speed (2 SBs) blunts the buzz just a little. (NR)

11. JULIO LUGO, RED SOX

Lugo's significance is primarily speed (84 SBs are fourth among shortstops since 2004), but he's also a .330 career hitter at Fenway, his new quarters. (13)

12. ORLANDO CABRERA, ANGELS

A neutral effect in three fantasy columns, but as long as he's thieving sacks (an average of 22 since 2001), Cabrera's worth your attention. (12)

13. KHALIL GREENE, PADRES (B, C)

Three injury-marred years have turned Greene's career into staccato bursts of promise and misery. He's capable of far more than his career .754 OPS, but your draft day bid requires some blind faith. (10)

14. TROY TULOWITZKI, ROCKIES (C)

We're venturing out on a bit of limb for this rookie, but his confluence of potential, reputation, opportunity and home ballpark might make him a cunning draft grab. (NR)

15. BOBBY CROSBY, A'S (F)

A lot of fantasy bucks have been left on the table in Crosby's name. The once-esteemed Rookie of the Year has had more missed games than RBIs over the past three years, and 2006's misdiagnosed spinal fracture was another wince. (8)

16. JHONNY PERALTA, INDIANS

As sequels go, Peralta played 2006 like "Dumb and Dumberer," reporting overweight and abandoning any semblance of offensive approach. With the promise of his .292-24-78 fresh in our minds, we'll give him another chance. (11)

17. J.J. HARDY, BREWERS (C)

The sleeper hopes we hung on him last year disappeared with a May ankle injury. So here we go again. Speed-free, but above-average offensive potential. (16)

18. YUNIESKY BETANCOURT, MARINERS

Nothing stands out about Betancourt's rookie stats, but he did show decent promise in all four fantasy columns. Think of him as solid and economical. (NR)

19. OMAR VIZQUEL, GIANTS

While it's comical that Omar Vizquel, Rickey Henderson and Cap Anson might have anything in common, they will in 2007 if Omar joins the others as the only 40-year-olds to hit at least .295 and steal 24 bases — which is what "V" did at 39. (26)

20. JASON BARTLETT, TWINS
21. ANGEL BERROA, ROYALS
22. JACK WILSON, PIRATES
23. ALEX GONZALEZ, REDS
24. DAVID ECKSTEIN, CARDINALS (20)
25. JUAN URIBE, WHITE SOX (E)
26. ADAM EVERETT, ASTROS (24)
27. CESAR IZTURIS, CUBS (NR)
28. BEN ZOBRIST, DEVIL RAYS (NR)
29. CLINT BARMES, ROCKIES (23)
30. CRISTIAN GUZMAN, NATIONALS (30)

Steve Moore

outfielders/dh

1. CARL CRAWFORD, DEVIL RAYS (A, B)

Crawford, just 25, has upped his HRs and AVG every year he's been in the league, coaxes solid RBI totals despite hitting high in the order (career .879 OPS with RISP) and has started to solve lefties. Best of all: 70 more SBs than anyone else in the AL since 2003. (2)

2. VLADIMIR GUERRERO, ANGELS (A)

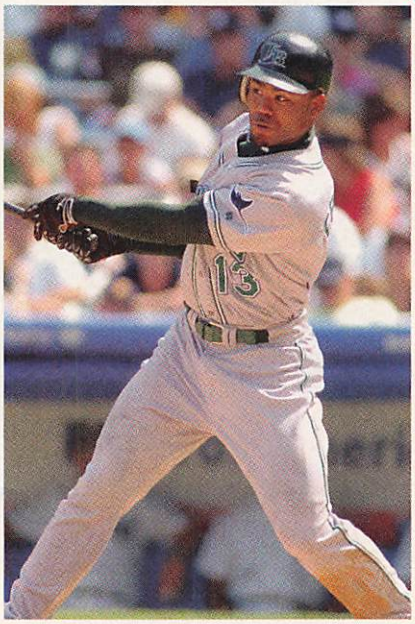
Guerrero's just a machine. He missed 50 games in 2003, but other than that his full-season lows are a .307 AVG, 32 HRs and 108 RBI. He's had eight seasons at that level or higher; only The Babe (11) had more. A steal every other week is just dessert. (1)

3. ALFONSO SORIANO, CUBS (A)

Soriano is the first player to hit 200 homers and steal 200 bases by the end of his sixth full season. Wrigley effect? Considering his .909 OPS at suddenly righty-hitter-neutral RFK, we doubt it. (26)

4. GRADY SIZEMORE, INDIANS (A)

If you were starting a real franchise, this may be the first guy you'd pick. Just the seventh player in history with 185 hits, 75 RBI, 20 HRs and 20 SBs in back-to-back years. Wait 'til he starts to decode lefties (.214 AVG last year). (9)



5. BOBBY ABREU, YANKEES (A)

Abreu's HR juice is fermenting — halved over the last two years — yet he's still a 100-RBI man. He's also one of only two active career .300 hitters with at least 200 swats and swipes. (3)

6. CARLOS BELTRAN, METS (A)

Shea shaves his AVG (.250 there, career) and Father Time has eroded his SBs from the 40s to the teens, but Beltran is still a 40-HR/120-RBI powerhouse. (5)

7. MATT HOLLIDAY, ROCKIES (A)

Holliday is becoming what Todd Helton used to be; he just tears Coors to shreds: 1.056 career OPS. Line of .326 AVG, 34 HRs, 114 RBIs and 10 SBs was unequaled by anyone in 2006. Had 66 RBIs the last two Septembers. (18)

8. MANNY RAMIREZ, RED SOX (A)

Only J-Foxx ever had more than Man-Ram's nine straight 30-HR/100-RBI campaigns. Ramirez leads the game in RBIs since 1998 — despite missing almost 200 contests. Turns 35 in May, so brace for some physical and statistical erosion. (4)

9. VERNON WELLS, BLUE JAYS (A)

We're betting the new contract won't spoil him, and that he remains at or exceeds his established .300-30-100 credentials. Finally started to deploy his speed with a personal-best 17 SBs. (13)

10. ICHIRO SUZUKI, MARINERS (A)

This hitting automaton has gotten strangely streaky the past two years, but the bottom line is holding up. His .331 AVG since he crossed the ocean is 15 points better than anyone else in the AL. Has gone 39-for-39 in SBs since 4/19/06. (6)

11. CHONE FIGGINS, ANGELS (A)

Got on base 22 fewer times, so stole 10 fewer bases in 2006, but not to worry. There are only five legit 50-SB guys on the board, and he'll get back to .300 territory. (Don't you hate it when the guy who outbids you for Figgins calls him "Chohn?") (4 at 3B)

12. JUAN PIERRE, DODGERS (A)

Pierre has accounted for 1 of every 51 SBs in the NL since 2001. If that ratio represented HRs, he'd have hit 103 per year. That gives you an idea of his relative value. Hasn't missed a game since 2002. (8)

13. JASON BAY, PIRATES

Bay is a fine player at a peak age, but his 30 HR/100 RBI season (27 hitters did that) were not as weighty because his AVG dropped 20 points and steals fell from 21 to 11. (7)

14. WILLY TAVERAS, ROCKIES (B)

The next-best thing to Pierre, with every aptitude to hit .300 and thieve 50 bases. Great fit for the Rockies, and they'll turn him loose more often than the 'Stros. (11)

15. CARLOS LEE, ASTROS

Lee is the only player in baseball who's equaled or improved his HR sum every year since 1999 (34 in 2006), and last year's SBs were a career-high 19. Any reservations would be motivational: an enormous contract for an enormous man who last year played at circa 290 pounds. (14)

16. ROCCO BALDELLI, DEVIL RAYS (B)

Before a series of injuries, Baldelli could have been Sizemore. He still might be. After going 612 days between games, he returned healthy and hammerin'. Last two months' stats projected to .323-33-84 and 21 SBs over a full season. (23)

17. MICHAEL CUDDYER, TWINS (B)

Took him long enough, but Cuddyer finally had his breakout. We can see the .284-24-109 becoming more like .300-32-120 for the next five-to-seven years. (63)

18. ALEX RIOS, BLUE JAYS (B)

Rios was a big story well into June, challenging for the batting title and looking like a shoo-in for 20-20. Then came a nasty leg infection and a .261/2-HR second half. He'll continue to advance on stardom. (46)

19. JERMAINE DYE, WHITE SOX (E)

Including his 2006 biggie, Dye has had two seasons in which he's averaged .318-39-119. In his other six since 1999, he's a ho-hum .267-23-66. (39)

20. HIDEKI MATSUI, YANKEES

Our condolences to those who drafted a guy who'd played in 1,768 straight games (including Japan) and got but 51 out of him. Aside from that glitch, Matsui is a clockwork performer. (10)

21. ANDRUW JONES, BRAVES

We advised temperance after Jones' 51 HRs in 2005, and he dropped by 10 while maintaining his high RBI level. Pay what you will for 40-120, but he's a .260 hitter without steals. (12)

22. JOHNNY DAMON, YANKEES (E)

Went to NY and traded off 31 points in AVG for 14 more homers. Don't look now, but Johnny's 33 and a rerun of the 24 HRs and 25 SBs at that age would be a feat, considering only Aaron, Lopes, Canseco, Brady Anderson and the Bonds boys have done it. (20)

23. NICK MARKAKIS, ORIOLES

We're all over this guy like dirt on Eckstein. Last year was a roller-coaster, but he was just 22 and did things like hit .333 between May 31 and Aug. 31, and man up for seven homers in a 35-AB span. (NR)

Steve Moore

outfielders/dh

24. TORII HUNTER, TWINS

As erratic as he is gifted, more than doubling his HRs to a career-high 31 but cutting his SBs in half to 12. Career .269 AVG is the third-lowest among acting AL outfielders with 3,000 PAs. (15)

25. COREY PATTERSON, ORIOLES

Rejuvenated his career in Baltimore. We're still not sure he's figured it out at the plate (.207 AVG vs. LHPs and only 21 walks), but anyone who steals 45 bases is fantasy fodder no matter what else he doesn't do. (NR)

26. MAGGLIO ORDONEZ, TIGERS

Mags' .298-24-104 comeback from two years of near uselessness was convincingly similar to his 1999-2003 prime (.312-32-118), so we'll concede that he's his old self. (33)

27. J.D. DREW, RED SOX (F)

Everything you'd want in a ballplayer except a pulse. Boston fans will expect him to play hard, hurt, humble and habitually — not exactly his M.O. Sho'nuf, about four seconds after he signed, news of a shoulder problem surfaced. His is a tempting, but risky recipe. (24)

28. DELMON YOUNG, DEVIL RAYS

Young is on his way to Albert Belleville, in both production and controversy. If he can keep it zipped and just play ball, there is no better four-category prospect in the hobby. (NR)

29. COCO CRISP, RED SOX (C)

Compare these 2004-05 AVG-HR-RBI-SB totals: .310-30-169-37 and .299-31-140-35. The first was Damon, the second Crisp — a surprisingly comparable player who fell way off in '06 because of a damaged thumb. (29)

30. JEFF FRANCOEUR, BRAVES

One of the year's toughest calls. An amazing talent, but that nearly 6-to-1 SO/BB ratio is a ball and chain. Not sure if it's relevant, but he got 51% of his RBIs with two outs. (By comparison, RBI champ Ryan Howard was 37%.) (48)

31. MILTON BRADLEY, A'S

Can mortally rake for weeks on end, then he gets hurt or goes all rubber room. Has .300-20, 20 SB potential, but will be a bargain or bust — nothing in between. (21)

32. NICK SWISHER, A'S

Having accurately tabbed Swisher for a 2006 emergence (35 HRs, 95 RBIs) we now turn our attention to the unsightly .246 AVG of the past two years. In September, he hit .281 while concurrently setting his one-month walk high of 23. The light may be coming on. (20 at 1B)

33. CARLOS QUENTIN, DIAMONDBACKS

2006 July callup who made great adjustments, hitting 5 HRs in September off a 12-for-65/0-HR August. Projected to .253-26-91 over 162 games, but he's a natural-born .300 hitter. (NR)

34. CHRIS BURKE, ASTROS (B, C)

Finally, a real job. Shuttled all over the park for two years, Burke is now an everyday centerfielder, and we think his 25 SBs and 15 HRs will make him one of the astute pickups of the year. Played all of 2006 with a shoulder that kept popping out. (28 at 2B)

35. BRAD HAWPE, ROCKIES

Solid, if lesser-known, hitter who justified his "C" last year. Not much of an upside beyond his .293-22-84 of 2006, but that should come at a sensible price. (71)

36. ADAM DUNN, REDS

Dunn's .234 AVG ranked 159th out the majors' 162 batting title qualifiers. That helped make him the first player in 12 years to hit 40 homers while neither scoring nor driving in 100 runs. (9 at 1B)

37. JACQUE JONES, CUBS

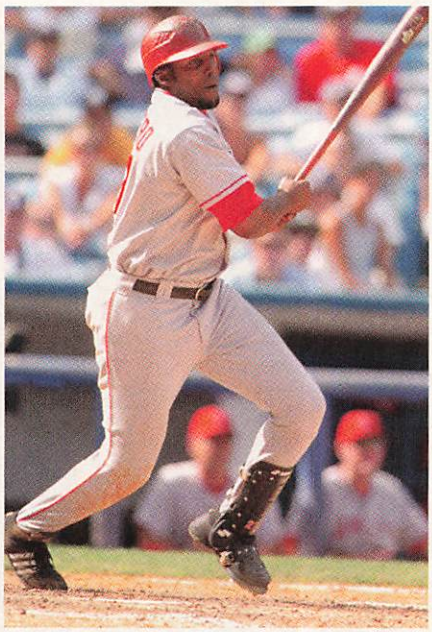
He's going to hit 20 HRs, drive in 75 runs and steal 10 bases. He always does. But determining whether Jones is an asset or just another guy is his AVG, the last four of which have been .304, .254, .249, .285. (37)

38. CURTIS GRANDERSON, TIGERS

Granderson was an average fantasy outfielder at best in his first full season. But a good sign was that after an ugly August, he answered with his top HR month (6) in September. (68)

39. AUSTIN KEARNS, NATIONALS

Kearns has incinerated so much fantasy cash he's hard to absolve. He's worth one more look (gulp) based on: (a) a .264-24-86/9-SB year that was one of only nine of its kind by an outfielder; (b) his age, 27; and (c) an OPS that is actually higher at RFK than in Cincy. (50)



Steve Moore

40. RAUL IBANEZ, MARINERS (E)

We always tout Ibanez as a bang-for-the-buck play, but his .289-33-123 was crazy-good. Since he's coming up on 35, his 2002-05 average of .292-20-86 is more realistic. (42)

41. BILL HALL, BREWERS (E)

Fantasy baseball's prairie dog, popping up all over the field. Last year it was as a big-time offensive shortstop. Apparently he's a center fielder now. The only thing more shocking than his 35 HRs would be if he did it again. (27 at 3B)

42. DAVE ROBERTS, GIANTS (E)

Because Roberts is almost 35 and has never played a 130-game season, there is always insecurity in drafting him. You would, however, have to have selected Pierre, Crawford or Scott Podsednik to get as many SBs as he's provided the last five years. (73)

43. MIKE CAMERON, PADRES

Only Abreu (seven) has had more 20-20 seasons than Cameron (five) since 1999. His offset is in his career .252 AVG — third-worst among active every-day outfielders since he broke in. (59)

44. PAT BURRELL, PHILLIES

Many feel that if Burrell rededicated himself to the game — and perhaps not let so many called third strikes go by — that he still could reach his massive potential. Meantime, we're looking at a career average of .258-27-92 with maximum flux. (27)

45. SCOTT PODSEDNIK, WHITE SOX (E)

Has been exposed as one of the game's most hapless hitters, but a norm of 53 steals since 2003 makes him a category sniper in fantasy. You have to worry, though, that his day's as a starter are numbered. (16)

46. JEREMY HERMIDA, MARLINS (C)

Hip and ankle injuries masked the promise that made him a 2006 Rookie of the Year favorite. That creates an opportunity to get this future star at a price now. (43)

47. MATT MURTON, CUBS

Has middling power and speed, at best, but with a .321 AVG and 14 RBIs over his last 30 games, he put himself on the fantasy map. You could do worse for a fourth or fifth outfielder. (67)

48. DAVID DEJESUS, ROYALS (B)

A .292 career hitter, but still no signs of the power-speed potential he's said to have, and batting leadoff minimizes his RBI opps. Has some upside. (53)

49. RYAN FREEL, REDS

Since 2004, ranks eighth in SBs (110) and 318th in RBIs (76). At least you know what you're getting. (11 at 2B)

50. JOSH WILLINGHAM, MARLINS

Josh was another of our sleeper specials (albeit as a catcher) and you doubtless got his 26 HRs on the cheap. Over the longer haul, he's probably Kevin Millar. (25 at C)

51. ANDRE ETHIER, DODGERS

Rookie who, between May 19 and Sept. 2, had the highest AVG (.348) in the NL. Before and after, he hit .157. Should settle in to be a nice player. (NR)

52. GARY MATTHEWS, ANGELS (E)

From 2000-05, was a semi-regular who averaged .249-10-38, so Nostradamus couldn't have seen the .313-19-79 coming. Has a .239 career AVG with 1 HR in 99 PAs at Angel Stadium. (NR)

53. RANDY WINN, GIANTS

Having followed his best season as a regular with his worst, Winn is young enough (32) to snap back, but he's your fifth outfielder either way. (47)

54. CHRIS DUFFY, PIRATES

Cheap place to shop for 30 steals, but merely a one-category player if he doesn't repair that .255 AVG. (79)

55. XAVIER NADY, PIRATES

Ideally, if you're the Pirates, you'd like your starting right fielder to have hit at least one career home run in your home park. In 118 PAs there, Nady hasn't. Regardless, he's good enough to take in your draft's end game. (NR)

56. GARRET ANDERSON, ANGELS

Still competent, but doing the slow fade. 2001-03 average: .303-29-121; '04-06: .288-16-85. (31)

57. GEOFF JENKINS, BREWERS

We're kind of over him. HRs and RBIs have dropped three straight years. (32)

58. BARRY BONDS, GIANTS (F)

Throwing darts with this guy, obviously. 2006 HR% was still better than the likes of Glaus, A-Rod, Morneau, Guerrero and Teixeira — but the % of how many at-bats is the question. (19)

59. KEN GRIFFEY JR., REDS (F)

While he still has an adequate power dimension, Grif is a batting average drain (.264 or lower four of the last five years) and a medical menace — even in the winter (broken hand). (25)

60. BRAD WILKERSON, RANGERS

Sand continues to sift through the hourglass for Wilkerson, whose first crack at a hitter's park last year flopped in a flurry of strikeouts and injury. The 32 HRs of 2004 keeps us interested. (28)

61. MOISES ALOU, METS (56)
62. CRAIG MONROE, TIGERS (61)
63. WILY MO PENA, RED SOX (C, G) (62)
64. JOSE GUILLEN, MARINERS (35)
65. AARON ROWAND, PHILLIES (22)
66. ERIC BYRNES, DIAMONDBACKS (E) (NR)
67. JUAN ENCARNACION, CARDINALS (52)
68. CHRIS YOUNG, DIAMONDBACKS (C) (NR)
69. BRIAN ANDERSON, WHITE SOX (C) (74)
70. JOEY GATHRIGHT, ROYALS (C) (75)
71. KENNY LOFTON, RANGERS (E) (69)
72. JIM EDMONDS, CARDINALS (F) (34)
73. DAVID DELLUCCI, INDIANS (NR)
74. BRIAN GILES, PADRES (38)
75. LUIS GONZALEZ, DODGERS (60)
76. JAY PAYTON, ORIOLES (E) (77)
77. RYAN CHURCH, NATIONALS (C) (55)
78. TODD LINDEN, GIANTS (C) (NR)
79. LUKE SCOTT, ASTROS (NR)
80. MARK KOTSAY, A'S (49)

outfielders/dh

DESIGNATED HITTERS

1. DAVID ORTIZ, RED SOX (A)

Ortiz's slugging percentage and home run totals have increased every year since 2000, so where they stop nobody knows. Over the last three, he leads baseball in homers and (by a wide margin) RBIs. (1)

2. TRAVIS HAFNER, INDIANS (A)

Per 162 games since 2004, averages .308-41-133, compared to .296-50-149 for Ortiz. The only differences between the two are the park Hafner plays in and his habit of one multi-week injury per year. (2)

3. JIM THOME, WHITE SOX

Thome's lumberjacked 232 homers in his last five full campaigns. Barry Bonds is the only active player who's had a better stretch. Usually tops out around 100 ribbies, though, and his AVG is three points below his leagues' norm since 2003. (4)

4. GARY SHEFFIELD, TIGERS

In his abbreviated season (wrist), his .806 OPS was his lowest since 1991; his BB/SO ratio has been plummeting; he's never hit well in Detroit. The good news is that he's still Gary Sheffield. (17 in OF)

5. FRANK THOMAS, BLUE JAYS (E, F)

Proved he still can mash. But back in the day, he hit for average — .321 prior to 2001, .260 since. Career OPS in Toronto is more than 100 points lower than elsewhere, and we are dubious of his lower half's ability to hold up for a full season on turf. (NR)

6. JONNY GOMES, DEVIL RAYS (C)

Throw out his 2006 stats; he was .305-11-23 on May 1, then tried to play through a crippled shoulder. May wind up at 1B. (57 in OF)

7. JASON GIAMBI, YANKEES (E)

He and Thomas are two-category clones at this point in their careers. Tailed off badly in the second half. (15 at 1B)

8. SHEA HILLENBRAND, ANGELS

Steady-as-she-goes hitter who qualifies at 1B and 3B. Has smacked .389 with 5 HRs in 14 games at Angel Stadium. (7)

9. JAY GIBBONS, ORIOLES

Has hit exactly .277 three of the last four seasons, with little else predictable. Good for 25 HRs if healthy, but career RBI rate of 1 per 6.7 ABs is scandalously low for a power guy. (64 in OF)

10. MIKE SWEENEY, ROYALS (F)

Sweeney has gone almost 11 years and 4,345 at-bats since the last time he went 0-for-15. Still can rake, but he's missed more than one-third of KC games since 2002. (5)

starting pitchers

1. JOHAN SANTANA, TWINS (A)

An easy choice at #1. As a body of work, Santana's last three seasons compare favorably with prime-time Pedro, Rocket and Unit as the best in hobby history. In that span, he leads in all three starters' categories, including a WHIP of 0.96. (1)

2. CHRIS CARPENTER, CARDINALS (A)

Only pitcher to rank among the top three NLers in wins, ERA and WHIP over the last three seasons. Cozied up to the new Busch Stadium with a 1.81 ERA and .552 opponents' OPS there. (4)

3. ROY OSWALT, ASTROS (A)

Since Oswalt showed up in 2001, he's posted five ERAs of 3.01 or lower; only two others (Santana and Randy Johnson) have had even three in that period. A guy you want for the stretch: career 51–16 in the second half and 20–2 in his last 22 September starts. (3)

4. ROY HALLADAY, BLUE JAYS (A)

Went 16–5 despite his bullpen blowing a half-dozen leads. And with a sub-1.16 WHIP and sub-3.20 ERA since 2001, he's got everything covered. We admit to a little concern that his SO/9 rate — 6.9 in 2005 and as high as 8.2 in '01 — plummeted to 5.4. (2)

5. BRANDON WEBB, DIAMONDBACKS (A)

After a 14–12, 3.54 effort in 2005, we slapped him with our "C" last year and, if you paid heed, you got yourself a Cy Young winner. Loses feel for his sinker from time to time: three seven-run starts without which his ERA would have been 2.54 instead of 3.10. (23)

6. CARLOS ZAMBRANO, CUBS (A, B)

"Z" trades off the NL's second-lowest H/9 (6.8) the last two seasons against its highest BB/9 (4.1). The tiebreakers are that only he and Webb have sub-3.60 ERAs four years running, and that he was the NL's first wins leader (16) from a 90-loss team since 1979. And these Cubs should offer more support. (10)

7. C.C. SABATHIA, INDIANS (B)

Inconsistency has made the big fella tough to commit to in a big way, but now may be the time to take the plunge. He's 81–56 for a team that's otherwise gone 403-432, and his recent SO/BB ratios have improved from 1.9 to 2.6 to 3.9. (19)

8. JOHN LACKEY, ANGELS (B)

Last year's numbers looked a lot like Webb's in 2005, and he could be poised for a similar bust-out. His final frontier is control: just 50th in BBs/9 among 100-game starters since '03. (25)

9. BEN SHEETS, BREWERS (B)

Sheets, though fraught with incongruities, is a potential windfall. He's eight games under .500 in his career and has missed 29 starts the last two years. Nonetheless, his 1.05 WHIP since 2004 is baseball's best by a right-handed starter. (7)

10. RICH HARDEN, A'S (F)

What we call a Dirty Harry pitcher. As in: Do you feel lucky? Harden can be absolutely the best righthander in the AL, but all his elbow and shoulder issues (28 starts the last two years) will mess with your mind on draft day. (5)

11. JERED WEAVER, ANGELS

Weaver had an explosive debut in 2006, going 9–0 with a 1.95 ERA in his first 12 starts. Four of his last six were stinkers, however, so either that's a cautionary tale of league adjustment or a product of workload. Our projections peg him for 15 wins and a low-3s ERA. (NR)

12. CHRIS YOUNG, PADRES

Young's senior thesis at Princeton was on how the media influences public opinion. We're here to influence you to draft this guy. Our spin: third in NL in WHIP (1.13)...sixth in ERA (3.46)...limited to 11 wins because he tied for the MLB lead in blown saves behind him (seven)...rare makeup and aptitude. (56)

13. JAKE PEAVY, PADRES (F)

We took one foot off the heavily populated Peavy bandwagon last year, and his 11–14, 4.09 showed why. He could rubber band back, but not to his '04-05 level (28–13, 2.61). Rates higher in 5x5 leagues because of SOs; rates low in safety because of chronic shoulder tenderness. (16)

14. CHIEN-MING WANG, YANKEES

As a guy who gave up three hits for every strikeout, Wang doesn't profile as an ace. His sinker drops like a bowling ball, however, and the Yankee lineup gives him a chance to win 19 again. (70)

15. JONATHAN PAPELBON, RED SOX

While it's difficult to project Pap's absurd 0.92 ERA and 0.78 WHIP as a closer into a starter's realm, dude is evidently hard to hit. We'd err on the optimistic side for him and, no, we're not worried about the little shoulder scare. (52)

16. ERVIN SANTANA, ANGELS

With 28 wins before his 24th birthday and as one of only two AL starters to allow fewer than eight hits per nine innings last year, Santana is fast-tracked to fantasy eminence. (65)

17. JEREMY BONDERMAN, TIGERS (B)

Every season is a little better, and Bonderman's not far from cracking the elite. 45 wins are easily the most in his age group (23 in 2006), and he was the youngest pitcher in nearly 20 years to reach 500 whiffs. (36)

18. FELIX HERNANDEZ, MARINERS

Pictured on the cover of the textbook, "Why We Don't Blow the Budget on Hyped Rookie Pitchers." Now that his 2006 rude awakening is out of the way, Hernandez should sneak up on stardom. Allowed two or fewer runs in eight of his last 13 starts. (13)

19. BRETT MYERS, PHILLIES (B)

Has made steady but evident progress. He's 25–15, 3.81 ERA, 1.25 WHIP the last two years — numbers that should get even better. (21)

20. DAISUKE MATSUZAKA, RED SOX

Salary is comparable to Johan Santana's, but don't expect anything more than Ervin. Pretty strong safety quotient since he doesn't walk many. (NR)

Steve Moore

21. COLE HAMELS, PHILLIES

Every bit the prospect Hernandez is, but with a spotty medical history that gives pause. Hard to argue with his evolution in 2006: 2–5, 5.98 in his first 11 starts, 7–3, 2.70 in his last 12. (NR)

22. MATT CAIN, GIANTS

Shackled with all the inconsistencies and periodic wildness of 22-year-olds who throw invisible fastballs, but Cain is a special one. Had a six-start stretch with a 0.21 (!) ERA. (41)

23. JASON SCHMIDT, DODGERS

Not the pure power guy he once was, but still effective. Among 150-game NL starters since 2001, sits top-four in wins, ERA and WHIP. Career 2.93 ERA at Dodger Stadium. (35)

24. JOHN SMOLTZ, BRAVES

On results alone, Smoltz should be higher than this, but he hits the big 4-0 in May and is no stranger to arm nuisances. (27)

25. ANIBAL SANCHEZ, MARLINS

No-hitter-chucking rookies don't have the greatest track record (where have you gone Bud Smith?), but Sanchez is the real deal. (NR)

26. SCOTT KAZMIR, DEVIL RAYS (F)

Ability-wise, Kazmir is right at the crest of the current wave of young power pitchers. Had a WHIP dip to 1.27 and a fine 3.24 ERA. He pitched only 16 innings after July 23, though; durability is a concern. (64)

27. DAN HAREN, A'S (B)

If you combine Haren's second half in 2005 and his first half in '06, his ERA is 3.43. This is about the age (26) good pitchers put it together. (31)

28. MARK BUEHRLE, WHITE SOX

Cruising with 23.2 scoreless innings in late May, Buehrle inexplicably went down in flames with a 6.18 ERA in his last 22 starts. Still sixth in wins (93) since 2001. (9)

29. ERIK BEDARD, ORIOLES

Can do the brilliant-brutal two-step on you from start to start, but he's just hitting his prime and Santana was the only other AL lefty with 15 wins and a lower ERA (3.76). (47)

30. RANDY JOHNSON, DIAMONDBACKS

Somebody at your table will pay for the mystique, but his ERA is 57th among 50-start pitchers the last two years. No pitcher his age has won 15 games since Knucksie Niekro. WHIP remains strong. (9)

31. DONTRELLE WILLIS, MARLINS

ERA progression of 3.30-4.02-2.63-3.87 has made Willis a moving target, and his winter DUI may be consistent with his inconsistencies. Had the 13th-highest WHIP of NL qualifiers last year. (18)

32. BARRY ZITO, GIANTS

Zito wasn't worth the contract, but his kind don't grow on money trees. He's the only pitcher with five seasons of 200 IP, 14 wins and an ERA below 4.00 since 2001. Things to fret about: He's topped 90 pitches in 66 of his last 69 starts, and he's become "Mr. Nibbles" — one of only three AL qualifiers to walk four men per nine. (32)

33. JOSH JOHNSON, MARLINS (E, F)

Threatened to become the NL ERA champ as a rook, but went 4.47 after Aug. 1 and finished the year on the shelf with a forearm problem. Great talent who hints at being a guy who'll play chicken with injuries. (NR)

34. AARON HARANG, REDS

Another sleeper bull's-eye, Harang went from 11–13 to 16–11 despite a virtually identical ERA and WHIP. This year, we see the latter numbers improving, but a regression in wins. (44)

35. JEREMY SOWERS, INDIANS

Even aside from being the only rookie ever to strike out Big Papi three times in a game, Sowers was impressive in 2006. Had a nine-start 6–0, 1.94 stretch. (NR)

36. A.J. BURNETT, BLUE JAYS (F)

Requires a strong stomach to draft because of his gossamer arm (22 starts a year since 2001), but the payoff can be big — especially now that he's throwing strikes. Won 48% of his starts last year, compared to 38% before that. (20)

starting pitchers

37. BRONSON ARROYO, REDS (E)

Arroyo slashed his ERA from 4.51 to 3.29, including 2.60 at a ballpark where the rest of his teammates were a cool 5.40. Halfway in between would be more representative of who he really is. If you're looking for the dark side: He led the majors in pitches thrown. (NR)

38. NATE ROBERTSON, TIGERS (B)

ERAs and WHIPs have declined in each of Robertson's five seasons, he just hasn't become a winner yet (32 the last three years). Getting 21 runs of support in his 13 losses last year didn't help. (NR)

39. JON GARLAND, WHITE SOX

Lone pitcher in the bigs with 18 wins each of the last two years. However, his ERA (4.51) and WHIP (1.36) reverted to what they were back in '03, when he was a struggling tease. (26)

40. MIKE MUSSINA, YANKEES (E)

I once approached a dog who'd been hit by a car. He gave my hand a ferocious bite, then dropped over dead. After a two-year ERA/WHIP of 4.50/1.37, Mussina's endorphins kicked in for a 3.51/1.23 rush in 2006. At 38, there is a seed of suspicion that this was his final assault. (58)

41. DEREK LOWE, DODGERS

Hacked up an 8.27 ERA in a seven-start midsummer swoon. But...he was 2.69 in other games, cut his gophers in half and finished the year on a seven-game winning streak. (62)

42. JOSH BECKETT, RED SOX

Won a personal-best 16 times in his first uninterrupted season — but that made him the 12th modern-era pitcher with that many to have an ERA over 5.00. Apply directly to the forehead. Apply directly to the forehead. Apply directly... (17)

43. CURT SCHILLING, RED SOX

We've seen the last of his vintage seasons, but he's good enough to be a fantasy champ's third-best starter. And charmed enough not to have allowed an unearned run since June 16, 2004. (43)

44. TIM HUDSON, BRAVES

Mysterious ERA/WHIP slide from 3.02/1.22 ('01-03) to 4.01/1.40 ('04-06), but he's still winning 12-to-14 games. You might want to get back on this horse; he can't be as bad as last year. (12)

Dilip Vishwanat/US Presswire

45. JEFF FRANCIS, ROCKIES

Rockies starters are usually the Great Unwashed of the fantasy world, but Francis' 2006 season was their best ever. His 1.35 WHIP was a team record; his 4.16 ERA was fourth; and his 13 wins were seventh. He'll improve. (NR)

46. CLIFF LEE, INDIANS

ERAs and WHIPs are no better than, say, Jarrod Washburn's...but he gets deep into games and knows how to win (15 per year since 2004). (28)

starting pitchers

47. BRAD PENNY, DODGERS (F)

Nothing about Penny's season was special except his 16 wins, which dispelled his pitch-just-badly-enough-to-lose rep. Medical and emotional histories separate him from the upper crust. (49)

48. JOSE CONTRERAS, WHITE SOX

Followed his '05-06 16-game winning streak by going 5–9, 4.98 after July 1. So flip a coin. (30)

49. SCOTT OLSEN, MARLINS (C)

Considering he was 22, a .239 OPP AVG and an ERA below 3.30 in four different months are attention-getters. (NR)

50. CHRIS CAPUANO, BREWERS

Was a better pitcher when he went 11–12 last year than at 18–12 in 2005. Made a stunning reduction in walks from 91 to 47. (66)

51. JUSTIN VERLANDER, TIGERS (E)

Was ignored by most fantasy gurus last spring, but we put him on your cheat sheet at No. 39. Although he was even better than that — and we are still bullish on his future — we're downgrading him now. He was exposed as more thrower than pitcher with a 5.82 ERA in his last 14 starts (including playoffs), and needs to make adjustments. (39)

52. TOM GLAVINE, METS

Until he proves otherwise, he's still at least a 13-game winner with an ERA below 4.00 — or least he has been 14 of the last 16 years. (53)

53. ANDY PETTITTE, YANKEES (F)

Has shown the capacity to pitch with it, but that elbow is worrisome. The 2.39 ERA in his last 12 starts was remarkable. (24)

54. KELVIM ESCOBAR, ANGELS

A .500 pitcher is a .500 pitcher. Escobar is 83–83 in his career even though his ERA (3.84) the past six years is the AL's ninth-lowest among 100-start guys. (51)

55. RICH HILL, CUBS (C)

After 14 major league starts, stood 0–6, 7.67. But after July 31, Hill was 5–3 with a 2.74 as a starter. Looks like a keeper. (NR)

56. CHUCK JAMES, BRAVES

Had a nine-start spree with a 1.69 ERA, but was 6.09 in his other nine. Led the NL in winning percentage (11–4, .733). (NR)

57. GREG MADDUX, PADRES

Only two pitchers have won 60 NL games since 2003. Oswalt is one, and Maddux the other, but Greg's ERA is exactly one run higher (4.11). (Bonus trivia: In relief of whom did Doggie make his MLB debut over 20 years ago? See pitcher No. 79.) (67)

58. JOHN PATTERSON, NATIONALS (F)

July forearm surgery provided Patterson's latest scar. Still on the radar because of his 3.13 ERA in '05 (his only full season), but at 29, he's always one pitch away from a high school coaching job. (34)

59. ZACH DUKE, PIRATES (C)

"Feel" pitcher who went numb for four months, then allowed three or fewer runs in nine of his last 12 starts. 15-game winner if he gets any help. (22)

60. MARK PRIOR, CUBS (C, F)

A "sore" subject for fantasy types. Once a top 5 pitcher, but he has not been close to that since 2003, and apparently he has chronic shoulder looseness/arthritis. We wouldn't discourage a modest bid. (6)

60A. ROGER CLEMENS, FREE AGENT (E)

If he signs, put him in the top 10. If not, draft and stash for his deus ex machina act in June. (60A)

61. CHAD BILLINGSLEY, DODGERS
62. ADAM WAINWRIGHT, CARDINALS (C)
63. GUSTAVO CHACIN, BLUE JAYS
64. DAVID BUSH, BREWERS
65. JAVIER VAZQUEZ, WHITE SOX
66. FREDDY GARCIA, PHILLIES
67. ANTHONY REYES, CARDINALS (C)
68. JASON JENNINGS, ASTROS
69. JEFF SUPPAN, BREWERS
70. JOHN MAINE, METS
71. KEVIN MILLWOOD, RANGERS
72. KENNY ROGERS, TIGERS (E)
73. DANIEL CABRERA, ORIOLES (C)
74. MATT MORRIS, GIANTS
75. JAKE WESTBROOK, INDIANS
76. TED LILLY, CUBS
77. VICENTE PADILLA, RANGERS
78. BRANDON MCCARTHY, RANGERS
79. JAMIE MOYER, PHILLIES
80. ENRIQUE GONZALEZ, DIAMONDBACKS (C)

RELIEF PITCHERS

1. FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ, ANGELS (A)

K-Rod set an Angels record with 47 saves last year, and became the youngest ever to reach 100. He also began to mask his only blemish, slashing his BBs/9 from 4.3 to 3.5. An excellent starting staff will hand over a lot of leads to protect. (2)

2. JOE NATHAN, TWINS (A)

Nathan's virtually automatic, having led the bigs by retiring every batter he faced in 21 of his saves and holding batters to a .158 AVG in 2006. Since 2003, his walks are down and strikeouts up in every season. More? How about a closer-high 14 wins the last two years. (4)

3. B.J. RYAN, BLUE JAYS (A)

A combination of miniscule HR rate and lofty SO rate makes rallies almost impossible against Ryan, whose success in retiring 87.5% of first batters faced led all closers. Went 13 months without allowing a homer. (6)

4. MARIANO RIVERA, YANKEES (A)

September elbow problems plant a seed of doubt with this 37-year-old great. He's attempting to become the first ever to pitch at least 45 games while allowing no more than three homers in six straight years. (1)

Tom Szczerbowski/US Presswire

relief pitchers

5. TREVOR HOFFMAN, PADRES (A)

Timing a closer's demise is chancy business, but Hoffman — who will turn 40 during the World Series — shows no indications of erosion. Had second-most saves (46) of career and held foes to a .122 AVG with runners on base — by far the NL's best. (12)

6. HUSTON STREET, A'S (B)

Although Street was second in the majors with 11 blown saves, we'll attribute his late-season travails to pitching with a groin injury and remain confident that he's the next great closer. (8)

7. J.J. PUTZ, MARINERS (B)

Came into the season 6–8, 4.19 with 10 saves, then was as good as anyone the last four months — unscored upon in 41 of his last 50 outings. Jarrod Washburn, a teammate of both Putz and Troy Percival, says J.J. has the better stuff. (NR)

8. BILLY WAGNER, METS (E)

Including the playoffs, Wagner allowed 8 ERs and 17 hits in his last 8.2 innings — an alarming reversal to his season. While his career track record is unassailable, the reality is that he's on the downslide. (3)

9. BRAD LIDGE, ASTROS

Lidge's ERA was a gruesome 5.28, but it was more than three runs per game higher in non-save situations than in save opportunities — of which he blew only six. Since 2004, he leads MLB relievers in strikeouts by 52. We're calling comeback. (7)

10. CHRIS RAY, ORIOLES

Saved 33 in his first season on the job, settling in (1.29 ERA after July 31) following a shaky start. Will need to tame his tateritis: one every 6.2 innings. (26)

11. CHAD CORDERO, NATIONALS

We forecast Cordero's 2006 depreciation (47 saves to 29) and continue to feel that, while he's a viable closer, he's two-thirds smoke and one-third mirrors. 22 HRs allowed the last two years were seven more than any other closer. (9)

12. BRIAN FUENTES, ROCKIES

Fuentes once had a job as that giant rat that walks around at Chuck E. Cheese. He still plays cat-and-mouse too much, creating jams by nibbling. So he tends to be streaky, but a second straight 30-SV year earned some credibility. (15)

13. TAKASHI SAITO, DODGERS (E)

Mr. Miyagi. That's the town in which Saito was born. Wax on: He led NL relievers in SV% (.923, min. 25 tries) and opponents batting average (.177). Wax off: He's 37, is on a one-year contract and has young gas-master Jonathan Broxton nipping at his heels. (NR)

14. BOBBY JENKS, WHITE SOX

Jenks' 41 saves belied his 4.00 ERA and 1.39 WHIP, and he's always a physical gamble because of his weight and mechanics. However, he did lead closers in inherited runner success and report to 2007 camp down 20 pounds. (22)

15. TOM GORDON, PHILLIES (F)

On a relief list colonized by so many aging warriors, Gordon is especially dicey because of his 2006 shoulder problems, age (39) and mediocre stats. His 34 saves and lack of a natural successor in Philly keep him in the fantasy ballgame. (16)

16. ERIC GAGNE, RANGERS (F)

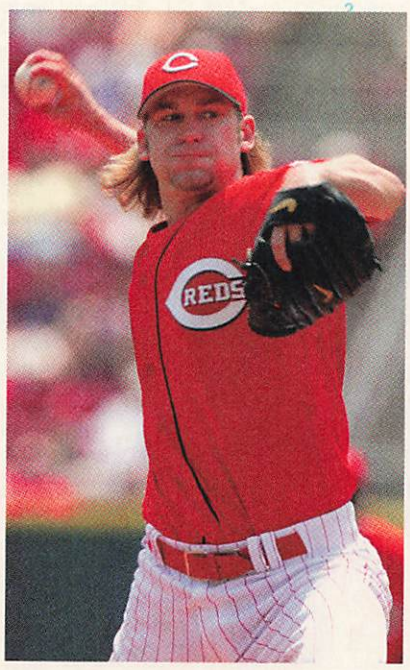
It would be surprising if he doesn't lose 5-to-8 mph after the elbow surgery, but Gagne has a great curve and a steel backbone. If that's enough to go on, he'll return Akinori Otsuka to set-up. (5)

17. JOSE VALVERDE, DIAMONDBACKS (B)

Valverde's been toying with a closer's job for four years now, but he's never put two six-save months back-to-back. It's his job to lose and, though he's lost it before, we're reasonably optimistic he'll capitalize this time. (23)

18. RYAN DEMPSTER, CUBS

The Cubs like his heart — and they have few alternatives — but Dempster's ERA was 5.61 after May 1 and his 1–9 record was the franchise's second-worst ever. He won't be that bad again, but he won't be great, either. (14)



Frank Victores/US Presswire

19. FRANCISCO CORDERO, BREWERS

Strange year. For Texas, he went 6-for-15 in saves and compiled a 4.81 ERA. For Milwaukee, he went 16-for-18 with a 1.69, but a higher WHIP. The presence of another former All-Star closer on the roster (Derrick Turnbow) makes Cordero's situation somewhat precarious. (11)

20. JASON ISRINGHAUSEN, CARDINALS (E, F)

Logged sixth 30-save season since 2000, but inflated ERA/WHIP and September hip surgery cloud Izzy's future. The Cards have other options. (10)

21. TODD JONES, TIGERS (E)

Has as many lives as Wickman, but the Tigers would turn to Joel Zumaya — or even Fernando Rodney — in a Motor City minute if Jones falters. (19)

22. BOB WICKMAN, BRAVES (E)

Old, lumpy and not hard to hit — and acquisition of Gonzalez clouds his prospects further. But before you write him off, consider he's a 15-year vet who posted two of his top three saves totals and ERAs in '05 and '06. (17)

23. MIKE GONZALEZ, BRAVES

Will go *mano a mano* with Bob Wickman for Braves' closer assignment — which should be his alone by '08. Was treated cautiously by the Pirates and was hurt in September, yet had the only perfect ledger (24-for-24) among front-line closers. (25)

24. ARMANDO BENITEZ, GIANTS (F)

Between his knee problems, declining velocity, NL-low .680 save % and the bull's eye on his backside among Frisco fans, Benitez is kind of a mess. He does, however, have a secure job — and 280 career saves. Track Brian Wilson as his successor. (21).

25. DAVID WEATHERS, REDS

Chairman of Cincy's closer's committee, which isn't saying much. As luck would have it, he's 8–0 lifetime against the Reds and 55–70 versus the teams he has to pitch against. (28)

26. TAYLOR TANKERSLEY, MARLINS (C, G) (NR)
27. OCTAVIO DOTEL, ROYALS (C, F) (NR)
28. JOE BOROWSKI, INDIANS (E, F) (29)
29. SALOMON TORRES, PIRATES (NR)
30. JOEL ZUMAYA, TIGERS (D) (NR)

National League

GAMES BY POSITION

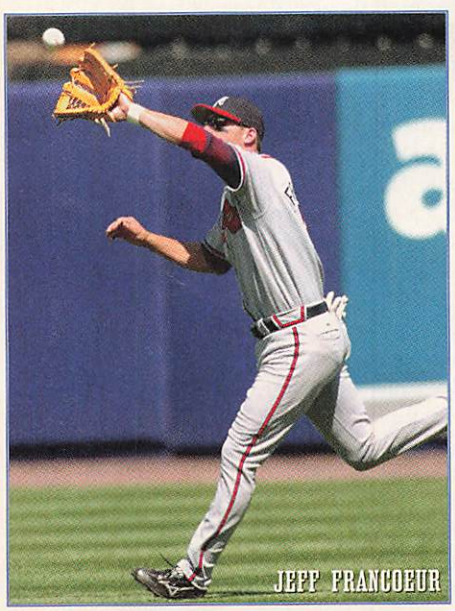
Players who appeared for multiple teams in 2006 are listed with their team as of the end of the season, and number of games reflects the entire season.

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Byrnes	143	0	0	0	0	0	137	12	123	10	0
Callaspo	23	0	0	3	2	4	0	0	0	0	0
Clark	79	0	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Counsell	105	0	0	2	7	88	0	0	0	0	0
DaVanon	87	0	0	0	0	0	58	8	36	16	3
Drew	59	0	0	0	0	56	0	0	0	0	0
Easley	90	0	3	9	20	27	1	0	0	1	1
Estrada	115	108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L. Gonzalez	153	0	0	0	0	0	150	150	0	0	1
A. Green	73	0	0	6	7	2	7	7	0	0	1
Hairston	9	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0
Hammock	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hudson	157	0	0	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	140	0	129	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Montero	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quentin	57	0	0	0	0	0	46	2	0	44	0
Snyder	61	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tracy	154	0	6	0	147	0	0	0	0	0	2
Young	30	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	24	0	0

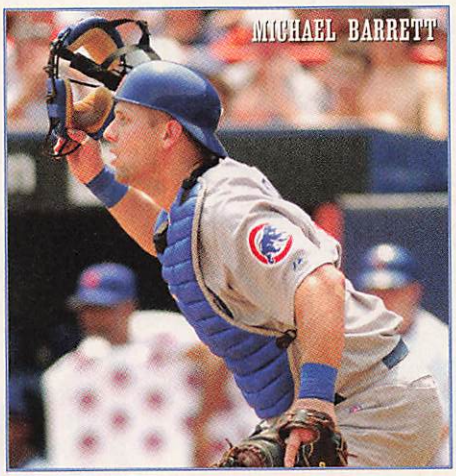
ATLANTA BRAVES

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Aybar	79	0	0	15	61	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diaz	124	0	0	0	0	0	99	95	0	6	0
Francoeur	162	0	0	0	0	0	162	0	2	162	0
Giles	141	0	0	134	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A. Jones	156	0	0	0	0	0	153	0	153	0	2
C. Jones	110	0	0	0	105	0	0	0	0	0	2
Jordan	48	0	25	0	0	0	6	3	2	1	0
Langerhans	131	0	0	0	0	0	119	104	24	2	0
LaRoche	149	0	142	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McCann	130	124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orr	102	0	0	32	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
B. Pena	23	15	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
T. Pena	40	0	0	0	1	22	0	0	0	0	0
Prado	24	0	0	11	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pratt	62	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Renteria	149	0	0	0	0	146	0	0	0	0	1
Thorman	55	0	18	0	0	0	21	21	0	0	0
Ward	98	0	10	0	0	0	14	4	0	10	4



CHICAGO CUBS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Barrett	107	102	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Blanco	74	69	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bynum	71	0	0	15	0	0	22	13	2	8	0
Cedeno	151	0	0	15	0	134	0	0	0	0	0
Coats	18	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	1	0
Hairston	38	0	1	24	0	0	8	3	0	5	0
Izturis	54	0	0	1	28	23	0	0	0	0	0
Jones	149	0	0	0	0	0	143	0	0	143	0
Lee	50	0	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mabry	107	0	51	0	2	0	11	5	0	7	2
Moore	16	0	6	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Murton	144	0	0	0	0	0	133	133	0	0	0
Nevin	67	1	38	0	0	0	10	8	0	2	0
Pagan	77	0	0	0	0	0	58	39	1	21	0
Perez	87	0	0	53	10	21	0	0	0	0	0
Pierre	162	0	0	0	0	0	162	0	162	0	0
Ramirez	157	0	0	0	156	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restovich	10	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	2	0
Reyes	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Soto	11	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Theriot	53	0	0	39	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Womack	28	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



CINCINNATI REDS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Abad	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aurilia	122	0	47	10	52	26	0	0	0	0	1
Castro	54	0	0	1	20	27	0	0	0	0	0
Clayton	137	0	0	0	0	0	129	0	0	0	0
Denorfia	49	0	0	0	0	0	37	11	12	15	0
Dunn	160	0	2	0	0	0	156	156	0	0	1
Encarnacion	117	0	2	0	111	0	0	0	0	0	0
Freel	132	0	0	13	13	0	105	13	54	42	0
Griffey	109	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100	0	3
Harris	25	0	0	7	3	5	0	0	0	0	0
Hatteberg	141	0	131	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hollandsworth	34	0	0	0	0	0	20	1	0	19	0
Hopper	21	0	0	0	0	0	15	1	2	13	0
LaRue	72	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McCracken	45	0	0	0	0	0	15	7	6	2	0
Olmedo	30	0	0	5	3	4	1	0	0	1	0
Phillips	149	0	0	142	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
D. Ross	90	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valentin	92	46	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Watson	10	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	8	0	0
Wise	31	0	0	0	0	0	18	9	5	4	0

COLORADO ROCKIES

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Ardoin	35	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Atkins	157	0	3	0	157	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baker	18	0	1	0	0	0	12	2	0	10	0
Barmes	131	0	0	4	0	125	0	0	0	0	0
Carroll	136	0	0	109	8	10	0	0	0	0	0
Castilla	87	0	7	0	70	0	0	0	0	0	0
Closser	32	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colina	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Freeman	88	0	0	0	0	0	51	5	44	2	0
Gonzalez	61	0	7	32	3	0	7	1	0	6	0
Hawpe	150	0	0	0	0	0	145	0	0	145	0
Helton	145	0	145	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holliday	155	0	0	0	0	0	153	153	0	0	1
Iannetta	21	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Matsui	70	0	0	52	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Ojeda	25	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Piedra	43	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	1	2	5
Quintanilla	11	0	0	3	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Salazar	19	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	14	1	0
Shealy	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Smith	49	0	6	18	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Spilborghs	67	0	0	0	0	0	46	10	24	15	1
Sullivan	126	0	0	0	0	0	114	0	114	0	0
Torrealba	65	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tulowitzki	25	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0

FLORIDA MARLINS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Abercrombie	111	0	0	0	0	0	93	3	87	13	0
Aguila	47	0	0	0	0	0	31	15	1	24	1
Amezaga	132	0	2	23	4	11	78	14	75	2	0
Andino	11	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Borchard	108	0	1	0	0	0	63	15	0	55	2
Cabrera	158	0	0	0	157	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cepicky	9	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	5	0
Helms	140	0	88	0	24	0	1	1	0	0	0
Hermida	99	0	0	0	0	0	89	0	9	85	0
Hoover	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jacobs	136	0	124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Olivo	127	124	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ramirez	158	0	0	0	0	154	0	0	0	0	0
Reed	42	0	0	0	0	0	32	1	31	0	0
Ross	101	0	0	0	0	0	83	41	21	34	0
Treanor	67	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uggla	154	0	0	151	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Willingham	142	2	2	0	0	0	132	132	0	0	3
Wood	12	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

HOUSTON ASTROS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Ausmus	139	138	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Berkman	152	0	112	0	0	0	44	5	0	42	3
Biggio	145	0	0	129	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Bruntlett	73	0	0	23	2	21	18	6	8	5	0
Burke	123	0	0	69	0	8	61	19	38	7	0
Ensberg	127	0	0	0	117	0	0	0	0	0	0
Everett	150	0	0	0	0	149	0	0	0	0	0
Gimenez	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
House	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huff	68	0	3	0	30	0	37	0	0	37	0
Jimerson	17	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	1	9	0
Lamb	126	0	68	2	36	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lane	112	0	1	0	0	0	98	6	5	89	0
McEwing	7	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Munson	53	37	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Palmeiro	103	0	0	0	0	0	23	12	0	11	0
Quintero	11	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scott	65	0	0	0	0	0	60	50	1	13	0
Taveras	149	0	0	0	0	0	138	0	138	0	0

Barrett and Francoeur: Steve Moore
Rollins: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

LOS ANGELES DODGERS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Alomar	27	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anderson	134	0	2	33	0	0	32	15	7	11	3
Betemit	143	0	0	10	79	18	0	0	0	0	1
Cruz	86	0	0	0	0	0	71	40	15	24	0
E. Diaz	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drew	146	0	0	0	0	0	135	0	0	135	4
Ethier	126	0	0	0	0	0	109	109	0	0	0
Furcal	159	0	0	0	0	156	0	0	0	0	0
Garciaparra	122	0	118	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guzman	8	0	1	0	6	0	1	1	0	0	0
Hall	21	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kemp	52	0	0	0	0	0	46	11	29	10	0
Kent	115	0	9	108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lofton	129	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	120	0	2
Loney	48	0	39	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0
Lugo	49	0	0	29	16	8	3	1	0	2	0
Martin	121	117	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Martinez	82	0	1	39	20	12	1	0	0	1	0
Mueller	32	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0
Navarro	25	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Repko	69	0	0	0	0	0	62	13	40	14	0
Robles	29	0	0	13	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saenz	103	0	30	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	3
Young	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0

MILWAUKEE BREWERS

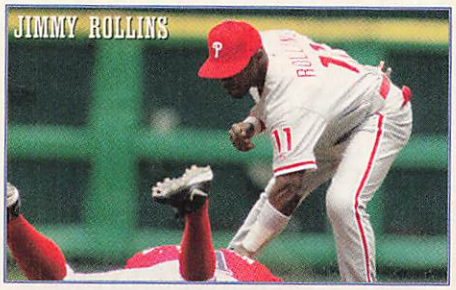
PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Anderson	9	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0
Barnwell	13	0	0	3	3	5	0	0	0	0	0
Bell	145	0	0	0	143	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cirillo	112	0	13	12	42	3	0	0	0	0	0
Clark	138	0	0	0	0	0	119	3	114	7	0
Fielder	157	0	152	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Graffanino	60	0	0	57	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Gross	117	0	0	0	0	0	59	20	33	8	0
Gwynn	32	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	19	0	0
Hall	148	0	0	4	11	127	7	0	7	0	0
Hardy	35	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0
Hart	87	0	2	0	0	0	61	26	6	37	0
Jenkins	147	0	0	0	0	0	133	0	0	133	0
Koskie	76	0	0	0	70	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lee	102	0	0	0	0	0	98	98	0	0	4
Mench	40	0	0	0	0	0	38	38	0	0	0
Miller	101	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moeller	29	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nix	10	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	9	0	0
Rivera	46	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rottino	9	1	0	0	3	0	2	2	0	0	0
Weeks	95	0	0	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

NEW YORK METS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Beltran	140	0	0	0	0	0	136	0	136	0	1
Castro	40	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chavez	133	0	0	0	0	0	120	43	39	46	0
Delgado	144	0	141	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Diaz	6	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0
DiFelice	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Floyd	97	0	0	0	0	0	92	92	0	0	0
Franco	95	0	27	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Green	149	0	13	0	0	0	131	0	0	131	1
A. Hernandez	25	0	0	13	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Ledee	70	0	0	0	0	0	13	9	0	5	0
Lo Duca	124	118	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Marrero	55	7	8	0	1	0	13	6	2	5	0
Milledge	56	0	0	0	0	0	50	26	0	24	0
Reyes	153	0	0	0	0	149	0	0	0	0	0
Stinnett	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tucker	35	0	1	0	0	0	18	16	0	2	0
Valentin	137	0	1	94	1	0	7	6	0	2	0
Woodward	83	0	1	39	11	13	9	7	0	2	0
Wright	154	0	0	0	153	0	0	0	0	0	1

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Abreu	98	0	0	0	0	0	97	0	1	97	1
Bourn	17	0	0	0	0	0	15	1	0	14	0
Burrell	144	0	0	0	0	0	126	126	0	0	6
Conine	28	0	0	0	0	0	26	12	0	25	0
Coste	65	54	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dellucci	132	0	0	0	0	0	67	45	0	31	2
Fasano	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gonzalez	20	0	3	0	2	3	1	1	0	0	0
J. Hernandez	85	0	1	3	1	11	12	3	0	9	0
Howard	159	0	159	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lieberthal	67	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nunez	123	0	0	6	74	3	0	0	0	0	0
Roberson	57	0	0	0	0	0	45	30	0	21	0
Rollins	158	0	0	0	0	157	0	0	0	0	0
Rowand	109	0	0	0	0	0	107	0	107	0	0
Ruiz	27	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sandoval	28	0	0	8	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Simon	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thurston	18	0	0	4	0	0	3	2	0	1	0
Utley	160	0	2	156	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Victorino	153	0	0	0	0	0	122	44	67	21	0



PITTSBURGH PIRATES

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Bautista	117	0	0	3	33	0	85	6	57	25	0
Bay	159	0	0	0	0	0	157	157	0	0	0
Burnitz	111	0	0	0	0	0	84	0	0	84	0
Casey	59	0	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castillo	148	0	0	145	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cota	38	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Davis	20	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
DeCaster	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Doumit	61	11	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Duffy	84	0	0	0	0	0	77	0	77	0	0
Edwards	14	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maldonado	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McLouth	106	0	0	0	0	0	75	3	42	39	0
Nady	130	0	35	0	0	0	99	0	0	99	0
Paulino	129	124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Randa	89	0	15	0	42	0	0	0	0	0	3
Sanchez	157	0	0	23	99	28	0	0	0	0	0
C. Wilson	85	0	43	0	0	0	30	0	0	30	0
J. Wilson	142	0	0	0	0	131	0	0	0	0	0

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Belliard	54	0	0	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bennett	60	56	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bigbie	17	0	0	0	0	0	12	11	0	1	0
Duncan	90	0	11	0	0	0	70	49	0	24	1
Eckstein	123	0	0	0	0	120	0	0	0	0	0
Edmonds	110	0	6	0	0	0	99	0	99	0	0
Encarnacion	153	0	0	0	0	0	148	1	32	125	0
Gall	8	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
Luna	76	0	6	41	2	14	18	17	0	1	1
Miles	135	0	0	88	1	39	0	0	0	0	0
Molina	129	127	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nelson	8	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Perez	23	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	0	4	1
Pujols	143	0	143	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rodriguez	102	0	0	0	0	0	51	41	0	15	1
Rolen	142	0	0	0	142	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rose	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schumaker	28	0	0	0	0	0	25	13	5	9	0
Spiezio	119	0	13	8	38	0	35	35	0	0	5
Taguchi	134	0	0	1	0	0	123	70	59	7	1
Vizcaino	80	0	11	18	2	26	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson	135	0	0	0	0	0	128	102	7	24	0

SAN DIEGO PADRES

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Alexander	22	0	0	0	13	9	0	0	0	0	0
Bard	93	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barfield	150	0	0	147	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bellhorn	115	0	18	11	50	0	1	0	0	1	2
Blum	109	0	2	1	34	49	1	0	0	1	0
Bowen	94	65	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Branyan	27	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cameron	141	0	0	0	0	0	141	0	141	0	0
Cust	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Giles	158	0	0	0	0	0	158	0	0	158	0
Gonzalez	156	0	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greene	121	0	0	0	0	113	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	58	0	0	0	0	0	43	22	17	4	0
Klesko	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knott	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leone	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McAnulty	16	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Mirabelli	14	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Piazza	126	99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Roberts	129	0	0	0	0	0	127	116	13	0	0
Sledge	38	0	0	0	0	0	22	12	0	10	0
Walker	138	0	40	60	23	0	0	0	0	0	5
E. Young	56	0	0	1	0	0	39	36	2	1	0

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Alfonzo	87	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alou	98	0	0	0	0	0	92	11	0	81	1
Bonds	130	0	0	0	0	0	116	116	0	0	5
De La Rosa	16	0	0	2	2	8	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	137	0	0	133	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ellison	84	0	0	0	0	0	64	44	4	17	0
Feliz	160	0	0	0	159	2	3	3	0	0	0
Finley	139	0	0	0	0	0	130	0	130	0	0
Frandsen	41	0	0	28	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Greene	61	42	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hillenbrand	60	0	58	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ishikawa	12	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knoedler	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lewis	13	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	1	0	0
Linden	61	0	0	0	0	0	47	40	0	12	0
Matheny	47	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Niekro	66	0	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortmeier	9	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	2
Santos	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweeney	114	0	53	0	0	0	21	21	0	0	0
Vizquel	153	0	0	0	0	152	0	0	0	0	0
Winn	149	0	0	0	0	0	141	20	59	89	0

WASHINGTON NATIONALS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Byrd	78	0	0	0	0	0	71	3	57	18	0
Castro	42	0	0	29	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
Church	71	0	0	0	0	0	62	2	51	14	0
Dorta	15	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Escobar	33	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	23	1	0
Fick	60	26	13	0	0	0	6	0	0	6	0
Gonzalez	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guillen	69	0	0	0	0	0	68	0	0	68	0
Harper	18	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	67	0	0	11	6	16	26	2	22	2	0
Johnson	147	0	147	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kearns	150	0	0	0	0	0	145	0	5	144	0
LeCroy	39	13	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Logan	27	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	26	0	0
Lombard	20	0	0	0	0	0	8	3	0	5	0
Lopez	156	0	0	0	0	155	0	0	0	0	0
Mateo	22	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	1	0	0
Matos	14	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	3	0	0
Schneider	124	123	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Soriano	159	0	0	0	0	0	158	158	0	0	0
Vento	9	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	8	0
Vidro	126	0	8	107	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Zimmerman	157	0	0	0	157	0	0	0	0	0	0

American League

GAMES BY POSITION

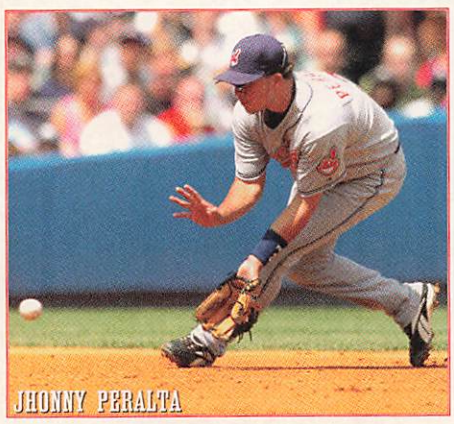
Players who appeared for multiple teams in 2006 are listed with their team as of the end of the season, and number of games reflects the entire season.

BALTIMORE ORIOLES

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Ardoin	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R. Chavez	16	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clark	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Conine	114	0	73	0	1	0	57	56	0	1	3
Fahey	91	0	0	13	1	17	54	53	0	1	1
Fiorentino	19	0	0	0	0	0	17	15	1	1	2
Gibbons	90	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	0	44	46
Gomez	55	0	27	15	5	6	0	0	0	0	2
Hernandez	144	135	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Markakis	147	0	0	0	0	0	145	26	9	127	1
Matos	55	0	0	0	0	0	47	31	9	13	1
Millar	132	0	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
Mora	155	0	0	1	154	0	0	0	0	0	1
Newhan	39	0	1	0	0	0	37	17	19	3	1
Patterson	135	0	0	0	0	0	134	0	134	0	0
Roberts	138	0	0	137	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rogers	17	0	0	4	4	1	4	3	0	1	1
Tatis	28	0	4	1	5	0	4	3	0	1	9
Tejada	162	0	0	0	0	150	0	0	0	0	12
Terrero	27	0	0	0	0	0	23	16	6	4	1
Widger	36	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5

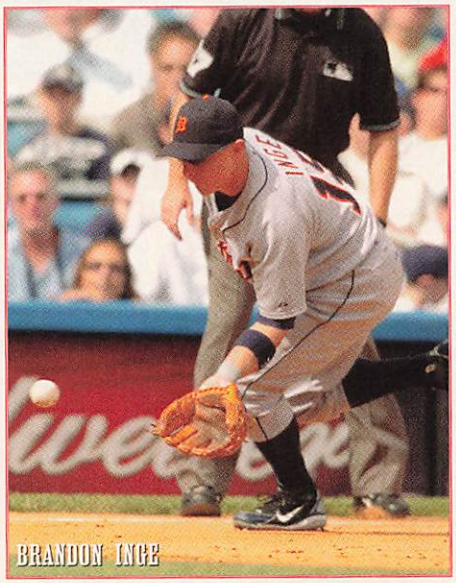
BOSTON RED SOX

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Bard	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cora	96	0	0	18	11	63	0	0	0	0	2
Crisp	105	0	0	0	0	0	103	0	103	0	0
Gonzalez	111	0	0	0	0	111	0	0	0	0	0
Harris	47	0	0	1	0	0	36	11	24	1	0
Hinske	109	0	16	0	10	0	45	6	0	40	21
Huckaby	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kapler	72	0	0	0	0	0	68	21	14	37	1
J. Lopez	94	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
Loretta	155	0	11	138	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Lowell	153	0	0	0	153	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miller	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mirabelli	59	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mohr	21	0	0	0	0	0	20	7	13	5	0
Murphy	20	0	0	0	0	0	16	6	8	2	1
Nixon	114	0	0	0	0	0	110	0	0	110	0
Ortiz	151	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	138
Pedroia	31	0	0	27	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
C. Pena	18	0	17	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
W. Pena	84	0	0	0	0	0	76	18	27	39	5
Ramirez	130	0	0	0	0	0	123	123	0	0	5
Snow	38	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stern	10	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	8	0	0
Varitek	103	99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youkilis	147	0	127	0	16	0	18	18	0	0	0


JHONNY PERALTA

CHICAGO WHITE SOX

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Alomar	19	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Anderson	134	0	0	0	0	0	134	0	134	0	0
Cintron	91	0	0	26	11	41	0	0	0	0	8
Crede	150	0	0	0	149	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dye	146	0	0	0	0	0	146	0	0	146	0
Fields	11	0	0	0	6	0	1	1	0	0	2
Gload	77	0	49	0	0	0	19	4	0	15	1
Iguchi	138	0	0	136	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Konerko	152	0	140	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Mackowiak	112	0	0	0	6	0	96	28	63	21	2
Owens	12	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	4	1	6
Ozuna	79	0	0	6	17	0	39	38	0	1	9
Pierzynski	140	132	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Podsednik	139	0	0	0	0	0	135	135	0	0	2
Stewart	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sweeney	18	0	0	0	0	0	15	6	7	6	1
Thome	143	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	136
Uribe	132	0	0	0	0	132	0	0	0	0	0


BRANDON INGE

CLEVELAND INDIANS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Belliard	93	0	0	91	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blake	109	0	9	0	0	0	93	0	0	93	8
Boone	104	0	0	1	101	0	0	0	0	0	1
Choo	49	0	0	0	0	0	43	9	4	30	1
Garko	50	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Gutierrez	43	0	0	0	0	0	42	10	7	28	0
Hafner	129	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	122
Hollandsworth	56	0	0	0	0	0	44	30	2	15	1
Inglett	64	0	0	53	0	1	9	6	3	0	1
Kouzmanoff	16	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	14
Laker	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luna	37	0	0	20	2	10	1	0	0	1	2
Marte	50	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0
Martinez	153	133	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Merloni	9	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Michaels	123	0	0	0	0	0	118	117	0	1	2
Peralta	149	0	0	0	0	147	0	0	0	0	1
Rouse	8	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoppach	41	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sizemore	162	0	0	0	0	0	160	0	160	0	1
Vazquez	34	0	0	7	14	7	0	0	0	0	0

DETROIT TIGERS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Casey	53	0	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clevlen	31	0	0	0	0	0	29	8	13	13	0
Gomez	62	0	0	0	0	0	52	32	0	21	7
Granderson	159	0	0	0	0	0	157	0	157	0	0
Guillen	153	0	8	0	0	145	0	0	0	0	4
Hannahan	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hooper	8	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
Infante	78	0	0	37	7	10	4	0	4	0	17
Inge	159	0	0	0	159	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monroe	147	0	0	0	0	0	116	113	8	0	30
Ordonez	155	0	0	0	0	0	148	0	0	148	6
Perez	21	0	0	14	1	7	0	0	0	0	1
Polanco	110	0	0	108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rabelo	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rodriguez	136	123	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Santiago	43	0	0	12	1	27	0	0	0	0	1
Shelton	115	0	115	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stairs	117	0	12	0	0	0	3	2	0	1	87
Thames	110	0	0	0	0	0	59	54	0	5	46
Wilson	56	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Young	48	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44

KANSAS CITY ROYALS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Bako	56	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Berroa	132	0	0	0	0	131	0	0	0	0	0
Blanco	33	0	0	7	0	25	0	0	0	0	2
Brown	147	0	0	0	0	0	134	87	0	54	10
Buck	114	112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Costa	72	0	0	0	0	0	65	5	21	39	1
DeJesus	119	0	0	0	0	0	119	73	61	0	0
Gathright	134	0	0	0	0	0	130	0	130	0	1
German	106	0	1	26	24	1	25	14	11	0	25
Graffanino	69	0	16	10	27	9	0	0	0	0	6
Grudzielanek	134	0	0	132	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Huber	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Keppinger	22	0	4	1	12	0	1	1	0	0	3
Maier	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	2	1
Mientkiewicz	91	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phillips	23	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Robinson	18	0	0	0	0	0	16	1	15	1	0
Sanchez	8	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Sanders	88	0	0	0	0	0	73	0	0	73	13
Shealy	51	0	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweeney	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59
Teahen	109	0	0	0	109	0	0	0	0	0	0

LOS ANGELES ANGELS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Anderson	141	0	0	0	0	0	94	94	0	0	45
Aybar	34	0	0	3	0	19	0	0	0	0	5
Cabrera	153	0	0	0	0	152	0	0	0	0	0
Erstad	40	0	13	0	0	0	27	0	27	0	0
Figgins	155	0	0	9	34	2	112	16	96	6	6
Guerrero	156	0	0	0	0	0	126	0	0	126	30
Izturis	104	0	0	4	87	10	0	0	0	0	2
Kendrick	72	0	44	28	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kennedy	139	0	0	133	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kotchman	29	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mathis	23	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
McPherson	40	0	6	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	2
Molina	78	76	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morales	57	0	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Murphy	48	0	0	0	0	0	42	2	29	12	2
Napoli	99	94	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pride	22	0	0	0	0	0	11	8	0	3	4
Quinlan	86	0	54	0	18	0	16	11	0	5	2
Rivera	124	0	0	0	0	0	103	56	20	33	18
Salmon	76	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	3	54
Willits	28	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	19	1	2

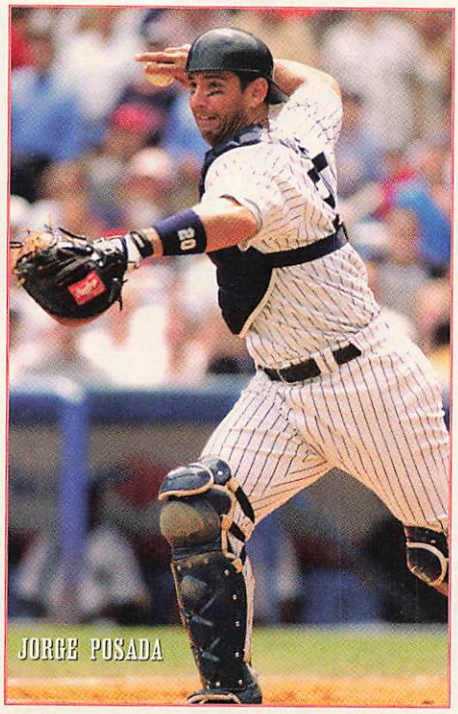
Inge, Peralta and Posada: Steve Moore
Sexson: Jim Mcisaac/Getty Images

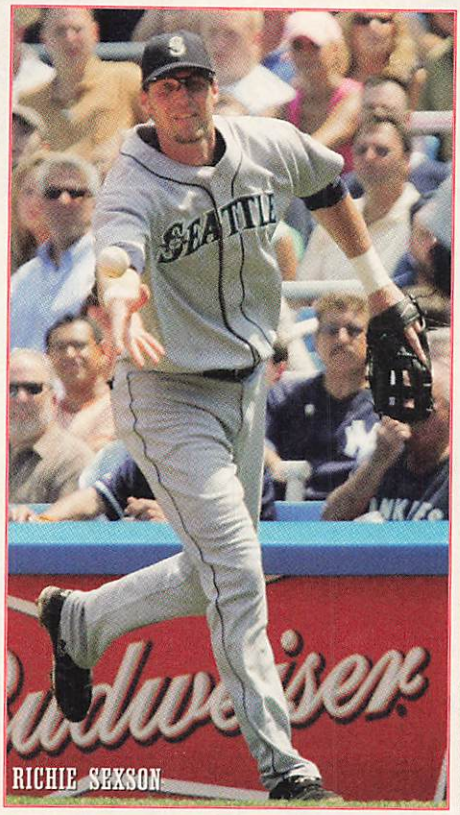
MINNESOTA TWINS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Bartlett	99	0	0	0	0	99	0	0	0	0	0
Batista	50	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0
Casilla	9	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Castillo	142	0	0	142	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castro	50	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0
Cuddyer	150	0	6	0	0	0	143	1	0	142	2
Ford	104	0	0	0	0	0	92	64	13	22	5
Heintz	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter	147	0	0	0	0	0	143	0	143	0	4
Kubel	73	0	0	0	0	0	37	30	0	7	30
Mauer	140	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Morneau	157	0	153	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Nevin	62	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54
Punto	135	0	0	17	89	26	3	1	2	0	2
Rabe	24	0	0	0	0	0	11	10	0	1	12
Redmond	47	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Rodriguez	59	0	1	14	29	2	0	0	0	0	3
Sierra	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Stewart	44	0	0	0	0	0	34	34	0	0	10
Tiffee	20	0	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	5
Tyner	62	0	0	0	0	0	50	33	18	1	12
White	99	0	0	0	0	0	38	38	0	0	54

NEW YORK YANKEES

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Abreu	58	0	0	0	0	0	57	0	1	57	1
Cabrera	130	0	0	0	0	0	127	116	4	8	0
Cairo	81	0	16	45	8	14	1	1	0	0	2
Cannizaro	13	0	0	2	2	10	0	0	0	0	0
Cano	122	0	0	118	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Crosby	65	0	0	0	0	0	62	10	24	31	1
Damon	149	0	1	0	0	0	131	0	131	0	16
Fasano	28	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Giambi	139	0	68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70
Green	63	0	1	23	17	20	1	0	0	1	2
Guiel	63	0	15	0	0	0	41	7	5	30	4
Jeter	154	0	0	0	0	150	0	0	0	0	5
Long	12	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	2	7	1
Matsui	51	0	0	0	0	0	36	36	0	0	13
Nieves	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phillips	110	0	94	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	4
Posada	143	134	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Reese	10	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	2	2
Rodriguez	154	0	0	0	151	0	0	0	0	0	3
Sheffield	39	0	9	0	0	0	21	0	0	21	9
Stinnett	34	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thompson	19	0	0	0	0	0	15	3	2	10	2
Williams	131	0	0	0	0	0	89	5	28	58	31
C. Wilson	40	0	35	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1





OAKLAND ATHLETICS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Bocachica	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	4	3	0
Bradley	96	0	0	0	0	0	94	0	0	94	1
Brown	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Chavez	137	0	0	0	134	0	0	0	0	0	3
Clark	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Crosby	96	0	0	0	0	95	0	0	0	0	0
Ellis	124	0	1	123	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jimenez	28	0	0	18	5	3	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	91	0	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kendall	143	141	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Kielty	81	0	0	0	0	0	73	44	0	31	3
Kotsay	129	0	4	0	0	0	127	0	127	0	1
Melhuse	49	24	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	15
Payton	142	0	0	0	0	0	137	62	46	45	4
Perez	57	0	0	2	27	4	0	0	0	0	21
Scutaro	117	0	0	37	12	69	2	2	0	0	0
Swisher	157	0	90	0	0	0	80	79	1	1	2
F. Thomas	137	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	135

SEATTLE MARINERS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Beltre	156	0	0	1	155	0	0	0	0	0	1
Betancourt	157	0	0	0	0	157	0	0	0	0	0
Bloomquist	102	0	4	15	12	17	59	3	48	12	2
Bohn	18	0	0	0	0	0	18	1	0	17	0
Borchard	6	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	1
Broussard	144	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45
Dobbs	23	0	3	0	2	0	3	0	0	3	5
Everett	92	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	80
Ibanez	159	0	0	0	0	0	157	157	0	0	1
Johjima	144	144	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jones	32	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	26	0	1
Lawton	11	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	5	2	2
Lopez	151	0	0	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morse	21	0	2	0	5	1	9	2	0	7	4
Navarro	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
Perez	80	0	34	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	36
Petagine	31	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quiroz	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reed	67	0	0	0	0	0	64	0	64	0	0
Rivera	35	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexson	158	0	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Snelling	36	0	0	0	0	0	34	1	1	33	0
Suzuki	161	0	0	0	0	0	159	0	39	121	2

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Baldelli	92	0	0	0	0	0	91	0	91	0	0
Branyan	64	0	2	0	5	0	55	1	0	54	0
Burroughs	8	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cantu	107	0	0	103	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Crawford	151	0	0	0	0	0	148	148	2	0	3
Gomes	117	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	8	101
Hall	64	61	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hollins	121	0	0	0	0	0	115	18	33	78	3
Huff	63	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	3
Lee	114	0	112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J. Lugo	73	0	0	0	0	73	0	0	0	0	0
Navarro	56	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norton	98	0	25	0	0	0	31	3	0	28	31
Ordaz	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Paul	58	52	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Perez	99	0	1	22	40	36	5	1	0	4	0
Riggans	10	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Upton	50	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wigginton	122	0	45	43	34	0	12	5	0	7	1
Witt	19	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Young	30	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	1	30	0
Zobrist	52	0	0	0	0	52	0	0	0	0	0

TEXAS RANGERS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Arias	6	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0
Barajas	97	94	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blalock	152	0	0	0	122	0	0	0	0	0	29
Botts	20	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	13
Brown	25	0	0	0	0	0	24	3	10	11	0
Cruz	41	0	0	0	0	0	39	1	2	38	0
DeRosa	136	0	1	26	40	7	64	5	0	60	3
Guzman	9	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	2	1	1
Hairston	63	0	0	1	1	3	52	35	12	7	3
Hyzdu	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Kinsler	120	0	0	119	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laird	78	71	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Lee	59	0	0	0	0	0	51	51	0	0	8
Matthews	147	0	0	0	0	0	145	0	142	3	1
Mench	87	0	0	0	0	0	72	17	0	57	15
Meyer	5	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Nix	9	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	9	0	0
Ojeda	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teixeira	162	0	159	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Wilkerson	95	0	0	0	0	0	82	80	1	3	12
E. Young	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
M. Young	162	0	0	0	0	155	0	0	0	0	7

TORONTO BLUE JAYS

PLAYER	G	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	LF	CF	RF	DH
Adams	90	0	0	50	0	36	0	0	0	0	1
Alfonzo	30	0	2	12	15	0	0	0	0	0	1
Barker	12	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	5
Catalanotto	128	0	0	0	0	0	102	101	0	1	20
Figueroa	8	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Glaus	153	0	0	0	145	8	0	0	0	0	4
Hattig	13	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hill	155	0	0	112	0	63	0	0	0	0	1
Hillenbrand	81	0	19	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	44
Johnson	134	0	0	0	0	0	133	100	16	30	1
Lind	18	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	15
McDonald	104	0	0	10	2	90	0	0	0	0	1
Molina	117	99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Mottola	10	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	2	2
Overbay	157	0	145	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Phillips	25	9	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Rios	128	0	0	0	0	0	125	0	6	124	0
Roberts	9	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wells	154	0	0	0	0	0	150	0	150	0	4
Zaun	99	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19

National League

CLUB BATTING

CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	OR	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	GS	RBI	SH	SF	HP	BB	IBB	SO	SB	CS	GIDP	LOB	SHO	SLG	OBP
LOS ANGELES	.276	162	5628	820	751	1552	2434	307	58	153	5	787	66	48	51	601	61	959	128	49	140	1223	9	.432	.348
ATLANTA	.270	162	5583	849	805	1510	2540	312	26	222	4	818	78	44	52	526	48	1169	52	35	131	1105	4	.455	.337
COLORADO	.270	162	5562	813	812	1504	2408	325	54	157	4	761	119	45	60	561	64	1108	85	50	119	1174	12	.433	.341
ST. LOUIS	.269	161	5522	781	762	1484	2382	292	27	184	4	745	71	40	61	531	70	922	59	32	129	1158	8	.431	.337
CHICAGO	.268	162	5587	716	834	1496	2357	271	46	166	4	677	84	37	43	395	24	928	121	49	135	1082	15	.422	.319
PHILADELPHIA	.267	162	5687	865	812	1518	2542	294	41	216	5	823	57	44	95	626	67	1203	92	25	115	1275	3	.447	.347
ARIZONA	.267	162	5645	773	788	1506	2393	331	38	160	3	743	61	53	67	504	47	965	76	30	136	1166	7	.424	.331
NEW YORK	.264	162	5558	834	731	1469	2474	323	41	200	10	800	77	47	62	547	63	1071	146	35	114	1115	9	.445	.334
FLORIDA	.264	162	5502	758	772	1454	2393	309	42	182	1	713	76	42	74	497	55	1249	110	58	109	1126	7	.435	.331
PITTSBURGH	.263	162	5558	691	797	1462	2205	286	17	141	3	656	62	49	89	459	49	1200	68	23	153	1175	11	.397	.327
SAN DIEGO	.263	162	5576	731	679	1465	2322	298	38	161	2	698	59	47	40	564	37	1104	123	31	127	1188	7	.416	.332
WASHINGTON	.262	162	5495	746	872	1437	2295	322	22	164	2	695	76	49	69	594	66	1156	123	62	118	1194	8	.418	.338
SAN FRANCISCO	.259	161	5472	746	790	1418	2308	297	52	163	2	711	80	37	53	494	76	891	58	25	136	1092	6	.422	.324
MILWAUKEE	.258	162	5433	730	833	1400	2281	301	20	180	0	695	58	53	82	502	48	1233	71	37	133	1108	8	.420	.327
CINCINNATI	.257	162	5515	749	801	1419	2385	291	12	217	4	718	66	38	59	614	52	1192	124	33	122	1196	14	.432	.336
HOUSTON	.255	162	5521	735	719	1407	2258	275	27	174	2	708	100	46	73	585	54	1076	79	36	122	1191	13	.409	.332

Individual Batting — 2006 Season and Career Stats (min. 240 ABs in the NL, AL stats not included in 2006 totals)

Batter	Team	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	K	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Abercrombie, Reggie	FLA	111	255	39	54	12	2	5	24	18	78	6	5	.212	.271	.333	.604
		111	255	39	54	12	2	5	24	18	78	6	5	.212	.271	.333	.604
Abreu, Bobby	PHI	98	339	61	94	25	2	8	65	91	86	20	4	.277	.427	.434	.861
		1485	5276	951	1595	375	44	205	883	1003	1181	271	84	.302	.412	.507	.919
Alfonzo, Eliezer	SF	87	286	27	76	17	2	12	39	9	74	1	0	.266	.302	.465	.767
		87	286	27	76	17	2	12	39	9	74	1	0	.266	.302	.465	.767
Alou, Moisés,	SF	98	345	52	104	25	1	22	74	28	31	2	1	.301	.352	.571	.923
		1840	6660	1054	2005	400	38	319	1229	708	860	102	36	.301	.368	.516	.884
Amezaga, Alfredo	FLA	132	334	42	87	9	3	3	19	33	46	20	12	.260	.332	.332	.664
		259	551	74	132	16	5	7	39	46	94	27	16	.240	.306	.325	.631
Anderson, Marlon	LAD-WAS	134	279	43	83	16	4	12	38	25	49	4	6	.297	.354	.513	.867
		994	2967	359	792	161	20	59	334	210	426	65	22	.267	.316	.394	.710
Atkins, Garrett	COL	157	602	117	198	48	1	29	120	79	76	4	0	.329	.409	.556	.965
		335	1218	188	368	83	2	43	221	131	165	4	2	.302	.373	.479	.852
Aurilia, Rich	CIN	122	440	61	132	25	1	23	70	34	51	3	0	.300	.349	.518	.867
		1353	4863	662	1352	259	19	169	655	390	736	22	17	.278	.332	.443	.775
Ausmus, Brad	HOU	139	439	37	101	16	1	2	39	45	71	3	1	.230	.308	.285	.593
		1716	5556	652	1408	240	31	73	547	560	883	95	50	.253	.326	.347	.673
Aybar, Willy	LAD-ATL	79	243	32	68	18	0	4	30	28	36	1	2	.280	.364	.403	.767
		105	329	44	96	26	0	5	40	46	47	4	3	.292	.387	.416	.803
Barfield, Josh	SD	150	539	72	151	32	3	13	58	30	81	21	5	.280	.318	.423	.741
		150	539	72	151	32	3	13	58	30	81	21	5	.280	.318	.423	.741
Barmes, Clint	COL	131	478	57	105	26	4	7	56	22	72	5	4	.220	.264	.335	.598
		244	924	128	234	50	6	19	114	41	128	11	9	.253	.295	.382	.677
Barrett, Michael	CHC	107	375	54	115	25	3	16	53	33	41	0	1	.307	.368	.517	.885
		916	3056	357	819	200	21	86	372	250	402	9	15	.268	.326	.432	.758
Bautista, José	PIT	117	400	58	94	20	3	16	51	46	110	2	4	.235	.335	.420	.755
		192	516	67	116	24	3	16	54	56	157	3	5	.225	.318	.376	.694
Bay, Jason	PIT	159	570	101	163	29	3	35	109	102	156	11	2	.286	.396	.532	.928
		471	1667	287	487	104	14	97	306	257	456	39	10	.292	.390	.546	.936
Bell, David	PHI-MIL	145	504	60	136	27	4	10	63	50	68	3	1	.270	.337	.399	.736
		1403	4826	587	1239	267	18	123	589	428	687	19	20	.257	.320	.396	.716
Bellhorn, Mark	SD	115	253	26	48	11	2	8	27	32	90	0	0	.190	.285	.344	.629
		718	2093	322	483	113	13	69	245	342	718	30	13	.231	.342	.396	.738
Beltrán, Carlos	NYM	140	510	127	140	38	1	41	116	95	99	18	3	.275	.388	.594	.982
		1176	4559	826	1280	245	55	203	763	522	836	227	32	.281	.355	.492	.847
Berkman, Lance	HOU	152	536	95	169	29	0	45	136	98	106	3	2	.315	.420	.621	1.041
		1059	3687	687	1120	258	18	225	753	690	720	47	29	.304	.416	.567	.983
Betemit, Wilson	ATL-LAD	143	373	49	98	23	0	18	53	36	102	3	1	.263	.326	.469	.795
		288	669	88	181	35	4	22	76	64	176	5	5	.271	.332	.433	.765
Biggio, Craig	HOU	145	548	79	135	33	0	21	62	40	84	3	2	.246	.306	.422	.727
		2709	10359	1776	2930	637	52	281	1125	1137	1641	410	121	.283	.367	.436	.803
Blanco, Henry	CHC	74	241	23	64	15	2	6	37	14	38	0	0	.266	.304	.419	.723
		666	1955	196	439	111	10	49	225	180	361	4	10	.225	.290	.367	.656
Blum, Geoff	SD	109	276	27	70	17	1	4	34	17	51	0	1	.254	.293	.366	.659
		900	2651	311	666	144	11	66	311	224	451	18	16	.251	.312	.389	.700
Bonds, Barry	SF	130	367	74	99	23	0	26	77	115	51	3	0	.270	.454	.545	.999
		2860	9507	2152	2841	587	77	734	1930	2426	1485	509	141	.299	.443	.608	1.051
Burke, Chris	HOU	123	366	58	101	23	1	9	40	27	77	11	1	.276	.347	.418	.765
		248	701	109	181	42	3	14	66	53	142	22	7	.258	.326	.387	.713

Batter	Team	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	K	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Burnitz, Jeromy	PIT	111	313	35	72	12	0	16	49	22	74	1	1	.230	.289	.422	.711
		1694	5710	917	1447	298	29	315	981	739	1376	74	58	.253	.345	.481	.826
Burrell, Pat	PHI	144	462	80	119	24	1	29	95	98	131	0	0	.258	.388	.502	.890
		994	3527	504	911	194	11	188	644	569	1017	5	1	.258	.362	.479	.842
Byrnes, Eric	ARI	143	562	82	150	37	3	26	79	34	88	25	3	.267	.313	.482	.795
		652	2099	324	548	132	20	74	259	162	365	65	9	.261	.322	.449	.771
Cabrera, Miguel	FLA	158	576	112	195	50	2	26	114	86	108	9	6	.339	.430	.568	.998
		563	2106	358	654	145	8	104	404	243	465	15	10	.311	.384	.535	.919
Cameron, Mike	SD	141	552	88	148	34	9	22	83	71	142	25	9	.268	.355	.482	.837
		1409	4881	778	1228	272	48	195	708	629	1340	254	69	.252	.342	.447	.789
Carroll, Jamey	COL	136	463	84	139	23	5	5	36	56	66	10	12	.300	.377	.404	.781
		472	1282	211	359	60	12	7	90	145	193	24	19	.280	.356	.362	.718
Casey, Sean	PIT	59	213	30	63	15	0	3	29	23	22	0	0	.296	.377	.408	.786
		1193	4414	636	1333	278	11	126	664	421	510	15	6	.302	.368	.456	.823
Castilla, Vinny	SD-COL	87	275	26	63	10	0	5	27	9	49	0	0	.229	.258	.320	.578
		1854	6822	902	1884	349	28	320	1105	423	1069	33	43	.276	.321	.476	.797
Castillo, José	PIT	148	518	54	131	25	0	14	65	32	98	6	4	.253	.299	.382	.682
		378	1271	147	328	56	5	33	157	78	249	11	9	.258	.301	.388	.689
Cedeño, Ronny	CHC	151	534	51	131	18	7	6	41	17	109	8	8	.245	.271	.339	.610
		192	614	64	155	21	7	7	47	22	120	9	8	.252	.283	.344	.626
Chávez, Endy	NYM	133	353	48	108	22	5	4	42	24	44	12	3	.306	.348	.431	.779
		569	1656	222	446	81	24	15	148	100	181	67	26	.269	.310	.374	.684
Cirillo, Jeff	MIL	112	263	33	84	16	0	3	23	21	33	1	1	.319	.369	.414	.784
		1539	5203	776	1550	330	19	110	700	544	675	61	37	.298	.368	.432	.800
Clark, Brady	MIL	138	415	51	109	14	2	4	29	43	60	3	4	.263	.348	.335	.683
		710	1900	251	529	92	5	36	198	193	232	46	30	.278	.358	.389	.747
Clayton, Royce	CIN-WAS	137	454	49	117	30	1	2	40	30	85	14	6	.258	.307	.341	.648
		2031	7184	911	1856	349	55	109	711	551	1362	229	99	.258	.313	.368	.680
Counsell, Craig	ARI	105	372	56	95	14	4	4	30	31	47	15	8	.255	.327	.347	.674
		1053	3446	489	896	160	28	31	283	419	470	90	40	.260	.344	.350	.694
Delgado, Carlos	NYM	144	524	89	139	30	2	38	114	74	120	0	0	.265	.361	.548	.909
		1711	6053	1059	1709	414	16	407	1287	973	1483	9	7	.282	.390	.558	.948
Dellucci, David	PHI	132	264	41	77	14	5	13	39	28	62	1	3	.292	.369	.530	.899
		908	2294	360	603	107	31	86	328	276	579	36	22	.263	.348	.449	.797
Diaz, Matt	ATL	124	297	37	97	15	4	7	32	11	49	5	5	.327	.364	.475	.839
		172	416	49	127	20	7	9	44	17	73	5	6	.305	.348	.452	.800
Drew, J.D.	LAD	146	494	84	140	34	6	20	100	89	106	2	3	.283	.393	.498	.891
		960	3161	605	905	160	33	162	509	529	685	74	26	.286	.393	.512	.904
Duffy, Chris	PIT	84	314	46	80	14	3	2	18	19	71	26	1	.255	.317	.338	.654
		123	440	68	123	18	5	3	27	26	93	28	3	.280	.336	.364	.700
Duncan, Chris	STL	90	280	60	82	11	3	22	43	30	69	0	0	.293	.363	.589	.952
		99	290	62	84	12	3	23	46	30	74	0	0	.290	.358	.590	.948
Dunn, Adam	CIN	160	561	99	131	24	0	40	92	112	194	7	0	.234	.365	.490	.855
		821	2832	519	695	151	6	198	466	574	927	48	16	.245	.380	.513	.892
Durham, Ray	SF	137	498	79	146	30	7	26	93	51	61	7	2	.293	.360	.538	.898
		1709	6574	1129	1846	384	77	175	759	714	1054	255	91	.281	.354	.443	.797
Eckstein, David	STL	123	500	68	146	18	1	2	23	31	41	7	6	.292	.350	.344	.694
		848	3338	498	945	138	18	27	254	255	283	100	41	.283	.351	.360	.710
Edmonds, Jim	STL	110	350	52	90	18	0	19	70	53	101	4	0	.257	.350	.471	.822
		1697	5907	1115	1709	380	21	350	1068	878	1512	63	46	.289	.382	.539	.921
Encarnación, Edwin	CIN	117	406	60	112	33	1	15	72	41	78	6	3	.276	.359	.473	.831
		186	617	85	161	49	1	24	103	61	138	9	3	.261	.341	.460	.802
Encarnación, Juan	STL	153	557	74	155	25	5	19	79	30	86	6	5	.278	.317	.443	.760
		1181	4402	575	1184	225	45	147	620	270	810	125	57	.269	.316	.441	.757
Ensberg, Morgan	HOU	127	387	67	91	17	1	23	58	101	96	1	4	.235	.396	.463	.858
		588	1848	287	499	89	10	97	304	288	347	22	17	.270	.372	.486	.859
Estrada, Johnny	ARI	115	414	43	125	26	0	11	71	13	40	0	0	.302	.328	.444	.773
		469	1584	158	444	104	0	32	227	90	181	0	0	.280	.327	.407	.733
Ethier, Andre	LAD	126	396	50	122	20	7	11	55	34	77	5	5	.308	.365	.477	.842
		126	396	50	122	20	7	11	55	34	77	5	5	.308	.365	.477	.842
Everett, Adam	HOU	150	514	52	123	28	6	6	59	34	71	9	6	.239	.290	.352	.642
		583	1925	239	480	91	13	33	199	117	316	55	16	.249	.301	.362	.663
Feliz, Pedro	SF	160	603	75	147	35	5	22	98	33	112	1	1	.244	.281	.428	.709
		724	2283	285	575	120	17	89	346	120	430	10	8	.252	.288	.436	.724
Fielder, Prince	MIL	157	569	82	154	35	1	28	81	59	125	7	2	.271	.347	.483	.831
		196	628	84	171	39	1	30	91	61	142	7	2	.272	.344	.481	.825
Finley, Steve	SF	139	426	66	105	21	12	6	40	46	55	7	0	.246	.320	.394	.714
		2540	9303	1434	2531	446	124	303	1165	836	1295	320	118	.272	.333	.444	.777
Floyd, Cliff	NYM	97	332	45	81	19	1	11	44	29	58	6	0	.244	.324	.407	.731
		1423	4775	752	1331	317	22	213	781	537	952	147	43	.279	.359	.488	.847
Francoeur, Jeff	ATL	162	651	83	169	24	6	29	103	23	132	1	6	.260	.293	.449	.742
		232	908	124	246	44	7	43	148	34	190	4	8	.271	.305	.477	.782
Freel, Ryan	CIN	132	454	67	123	30	2	8	27	57	98	37	11	.271	.363	.399	.762
		430	1487	234	408	77	14	19	91	185	262	121	36	.274	.367	.383	.751
Furcal, Rafael	LAD	159	654	113	196	32	9	15	63	73	98	37	13	.300	.369	.445	.814
		976	3912	667	1120	192	47	72	355	393	573	226	66	.286	.351	.415	.766
Garciaparra, Nomar	LAD	122	469	82	142	31	2	20	93	42	30	3	0	.303	.367	.505	.872
		1193	4832	847	1537	336	52	211	833	349	474	89	29	.318	.367	.540	.907
Giles, Brian	SD	158	604	87	159	37	1	14	83	104	60	9	4	.263	.374	.397	.771
		1518	5260	950	1552	334	48	260	941	1006	691	102	37	.295	.408	.525	.933
Giles, Marcus	ATL	141	550	87	144	32	2	11	60	62	105	10	5	.262	.341	.387	.729
		676	2514	416	717	168	13	72	294	274	441	60	22	.285	.361	.448	.809
González, Adrián	SD	156	570	83	173	38	1	24	82	52	113	0	1	.304	.362	.500	.862
		215	762	107	217	48	2	31	106	64	156	0	1	.285	.340	.475	.815

Batter	Team	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	K	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
González, Luis	ARI	153	586	93	159	52	2	15	73	69	58	0	1	.271	.352	.444	.795
		2316	8352	1312	2373	547	65	331	1324	1058	1119	121	83	.284	.368	.484	.852
Green, Shawn	ARI-NYM	149	530	73	147	31	3	15	66	45	82	4	4	.277	.344	.432	.776
		1821	6636	1067	1873	415	34	318	1024	707	1253	151	51	.282	.355	.499	.854
Greene, Khalil	SD	121	412	56	101	26	2	15	55	39	87	5	1	.245	.320	.427	.747
		401	1397	182	356	91	9	47	196	121	293	14	4	.255	.321	.434	.754
Griffey Jr., Ken	CIN	109	428	62	108	19	0	27	72	39	78	0	0	.252	.316	.486	.802
		2234	8298	1467	2412	449	36	563	1608	1077	1494	178	67	.291	.374	.557	.931
Guillén, José	WAS	69	241	28	52	15	1	9	40	15	48	1	0	.216	.276	.398	.674
		1115	3892	513	1058	205	20	143	574	203	716	22	24	.272	.321	.445	.766
Hall, Bill	MIL	148	537	101	145	39	4	35	85	63	162	8	9	.270	.345	.553	.899
		491	1606	239	428	108	16	67	225	132	425	39	24	.267	.322	.479	.801
Hatteberg, Scott	CIN	141	456	62	132	28	0	13	51	74	41	2	2	.289	.389	.436	.826
		1164	3813	485	1032	219	6	96	473	506	461	3	7	.271	.360	.407	.766
Hawpe, Brad	COL	150	499	67	146	33	6	22	84	74	123	5	5	.293	.383	.515	.898
		293	909	117	252	46	11	34	140	128	227	8	8	.277	.365	.464	.829
Helms, Wes	FLA	140	240	30	79	19	5	10	47	21	55	0	4	.329	.390	.575	.965
		659	1602	178	429	93	10	58	226	134	395	2	9	.268	.331	.447	.777
Helton, Todd	COL	145	546	94	165	40	5	15	81	91	64	3	2	.302	.404	.476	.880
		1424	5106	1018	1700	413	29	286	996	864	686	36	25	.333	.430	.593	1.023
Hermida, Jeremy	FLA	99	307	37	77	19	1	5	28	33	70	4	1	.251	.332	.368	.700
		122	348	46	89	21	1	9	39	39	82	6	1	.256	.338	.399	.738
Holliday, Matt	COL	155	602	119	196	45	5	34	114	47	110	10	5	.326	.387	.586	.973
		401	1481	252	459	100	15	67	258	114	275	27	11	.310	.368	.533	.902
Howard, Ryan	PHI	159	581	104	182	25	1	58	149	108	181	0	0	.313	.425	.659	1.084
		266	932	161	283	47	3	82	217	143	294	0	1	.304	.399	.624	1.024
Hudson, Orlando	ARI	157	579	87	166	34	9	15	67	61	78	9	6	.287	.354	.454	.809
		619	2195	296	603	122	32	50	268	192	355	28	15	.275	.335	.428	.763
Jackson, Conor	ARI	140	485	75	141	26	1	15	79	54	73	1	0	.291	.368	.441	.809
		180	570	83	158	29	1	17	87	66	84	1	0	.277	.358	.421	.779
Jacobs, Mike	FLA	136	469	54	123	37	1	20	77	45	105	3	0	.262	.325	.473	.798
		166	569	73	154	44	1	31	100	55	127	3	0	.271	.334	.515	.849
Jenkins, Geoff	MIL	147	484	62	131	26	1	17	70	56	129	4	1	.271	.357	.434	.791
		1102	3987	616	1114	263	20	191	640	362	1002	29	11	.279	.350	.499	.849
Johnson, Nick	WAS	147	500	100	145	46	0	23	77	110	99	10	3	.290	.428	.520	.948
		599	1973	323	536	133	3	76	297	355	414	25	19	.272	.395	.458	.853
Jones, Andruw	ATL	156	565	107	148	29	0	41	129	82	127	4	1	.262	.363	.531	.894
		1607	5836	962	1556	303	32	342	1023	647	1256	133	53	.267	.345	.505	.850
Jones, Chipper	ATL	110	411	87	133	28	3	26	86	61	73	6	1	.324	.409	.596	1.005
		1761	6385	1188	1944	383	30	357	1197	1070	1006	129	42	.304	.402	.542	.943
Jones, Jacque	CHC	149	533	73	152	31	1	27	81	35	116	9	1	.285	.334	.499	.833
		1125	4025	565	1126	220	16	159	557	266	853	76	41	.280	.328	.461	.789
Kearns, Austin	CIN-WAS	150	537	86	142	33	2	24	86	76	135	9	4	.264	.363	.467	.830
		515	1805	281	479	104	8	79	299	247	462	22	10	.265	.361	.463	.824
Kent, Jeff	LAD	115	407	61	119	27	3	14	68	55	69	1	2	.292	.385	.477	.861
		2041	7564	1200	2189	501	45	345	1380	719	1409	93	56	.289	.356	.504	.860
Koskie, Corey	MIL	76	257	29	67	23	0	12	33	29	58	1	2	.261	.343	.490	.833
		989	3399	516	936	223	13	124	506	458	795	71	36	.275	.367	.458	.825
Lamb, Mike	HOU	126	381	70	117	22	3	12	45	35	55	2	4	.307	.361	.475	.836
		720	2110	313	591	105	13	57	273	171	325	7	9	.280	.335	.423	.758
Lane, Jason	HOU	112	288	44	58	10	0	15	45	49	75	1	2	.201	.318	.392	.710
		426	1037	147	261	59	7	53	162	107	227	9	5	.252	.324	.475	.800
Langerhans, Ryan	ATL	131	315	46	76	16	3	7	28	50	91	1	2	.241	.350	.378	.727
		276	657	96	167	38	6	15	70	87	172	1	4	.254	.347	.399	.745
LaRoche, Adam	ATL	149	492	89	140	38	1	32	90	55	128	0	2	.285	.354	.561	.915
		400	1267	187	347	93	2	65	213	121	293	0	4	.274	.337	.504	.841
Lee, Carlos	MIL	102	388	60	111	18	0	28	81	38	39	12	2	.286	.347	.549	.896
		1203	4570	720	1308	270	11	221	782	370	653	96	32	.286	.340	.495	.835
Lo Duca, Paul	NYM	124	512	80	163	39	1	5	49	24	38	3	0	.318	.355	.428	.783
		896	3274	421	949	195	7	71	412	227	251	17	19	.290	.341	.419	.760
Lofton, Kenny	LAD	129	469	79	141	15	12	3	41	45	42	32	5	.301	.360	.403	.763
		1967	7630	1442	2283	358	110	123	743	889	965	599	153	.299	.372	.423	.795
López, Felipe	CIN-WAS	156	617	98	169	27	3	11	52	81	126	44	12	.274	.358	.381	.739
		576	2117	314	554	106	19	56	238	226	506	77	32	.262	.333	.409	.742
Martin, Russell	LAD	121	415	65	117	26	4	10	65	45	57	10	5	.282	.355	.436	.792
		121	415	65	117	26	4	10	65	45	57	10	5	.282	.355	.436	.792
Matsui, Kazuo	NYM-COL	70	243	32	65	12	3	3	26	16	46	10	1	.267	.310	.379	.689
		271	970	128	258	53	9	13	94	70	186	30	5	.266	.318	.379	.697
McCann, Brian	ATL	130	442	61	147	34	0	24	93	41	54	2	0	.333	.388	.572	.961
		189	622	81	197	41	0	29	116	59	80	3	1	.317	.376	.523	.898
McLouth, Nate	PIT	106	270	50	63	16	2	7	16	18	59	10	1	.233	.293	.385	.678
		147	379	70	91	22	2	12	28	21	79	12	1	.240	.296	.404	.700
Miles, Aaron	STL	135	426	48	112	20	5	2	30	38	42	2	1	.263	.324	.347	.672
		376	1284	163	360	50	11	10	107	75	133	18	10	.280	.322	.360	.682
Miller, Damian	MIL	101	331	34	83	28	0	6	38	33	86	0	0	.251	.322	.390	.711
		931	2996	342	790	196	4	83	382	289	733	4	5	.264	.331	.415	.746
Molina, Yadier	STL	129	417	29	90	26	0	6	49	26	41	1	2	.216	.274	.321	.595
		294	937	77	223	47	1	16	113	62	91	3	6	.238	.291	.342	.632
Murton, Matt	CHC	144	455	70	135	22	3	13	62	45	62	5	2	.297	.365	.444	.809
		195	595	89	180	25	5	20	76	61	84	7	3	.303	.370	.462	.832
Nady, Xavier	NYM-PIT	130	468	57	131	28	1	17	63	30	85	3	3	.280	.337	.453	.790
		399	1243	155	335	64	4	42	154	81	239	11	6	.270	.326	.429	.755

Batter	Team	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	K	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Núñez, Abraham	PHI	123	322	42	68	10	2	2	32	41	58	1	0	.211	.303	.273	.577
		892	2232	262	542	78	18	18	193	220	399	36	16	.243	.313	.318	.631
Olivo, Miguel	FLA	127	430	52	113	22	3	16	58	9	103	2	3	.263	.287	.440	.727
		434	1334	167	320	68	9	45	164	58	352	22	15	.240	.279	.406	.684
Paulino, Ronny	PIT	129	442	37	137	19	0	6	55	34	79	0	0	.310	.360	.394	.754
		131	446	38	139	19	0	6	55	35	79	0	0	.312	.363	.395	.758
Phillips, Brandon	CIN	149	536	65	148	28	1	17	75	35	88	25	2	.276	.324	.427	.751
		284	968	108	237	51	3	23	113	54	180	29	9	.245	.290	.375	.665
Piazza, Mike	SD	126	399	39	113	19	1	22	68	34	66	0	0	.283	.342	.501	.843
		1829	6602	1015	2042	327	7	419	1291	741	1052	17	20	.309	.379	.551	.931
Pierre, Juan	CHC	162	699	87	204	32	13	3	40	32	38	58	20	.292	.330	.388	.717
		1007	4110	607	1244	149	61	12	287	258	249	325	116	.303	.351	.377	.728
Pujols, Albert	STL	143	535	119	177	33	1	49	137	92	50	7	2	.331	.431	.671	1.102
		933	3489	748	1159	260	12	250	758	493	394	36	17	.332	.419	.629	1.047
Ramírez, Aramis	CHC	157	594	93	173	38	4	38	119	50	63	2	1	.291	.352	.561	.912
		1047	3897	517	1089	224	11	196	669	279	596	11	11	.279	.332	.493	.826
Ramírez, Hanley	FLA	158	633	119	185	46	11	17	59	56	128	51	15	.292	.353	.480	.833
		160	635	119	185	46	11	17	59	56	130	51	15	.291	.352	.479	.830
Rentería, Édgar	ATL	149	598	100	175	40	2	14	70	62	89	17	6	.293	.361	.436	.797
		1598	6143	934	1770	340	23	105	705	551	864	263	99	.288	.346	.402	.749
Reyes, José	NYM	153	647	122	194	30	17	19	81	53	81	64	17	.300	.354	.487	.841
		436	1837	301	524	82	40	33	185	98	226	156	37	.285	.321	.427	.749
Roberts, Dave	SD	129	499	80	146	18	13	2	44	51	61	49	6	.293	.360	.393	.752
		666	2204	358	594	76	42	21	181	245	278	207	50	.270	.344	.371	.715
Rolen, Scott	STL	142	521	94	154	48	1	22	95	56	69	7	4	.296	.369	.518	.887
		1393	5106	899	1454	356	30	253	954	681	1041	99	39	.285	.375	.515	.890
Rollins, Jimmy	PHI	158	689	127	191	45	9	25	83	57	80	36	4	.277	.334	.478	.811
		952	3997	630	1095	231	61	84	391	319	555	207	52	.274	.329	.425	.754
Ross, Cody	LAD-CIN-FLA	101	269	34	61	12	2	13	46	22	65	1	1	.227	.293	.431	.724
		121	313	36	69	14	2	14	52	24	78	1	1	.220	.285	.412	.697
Ross, David	CIN	90	247	37	63	15	1	21	52	37	75	0	0	.255	.353	.579	.932
		259	671	82	155	34	3	40	102	73	211	0	0	.231	.313	.469	.782
Rowand, Aaron	PHI	109	405	59	106	24	3	12	47	18	76	10	4	.262	.321	.425	.745
		688	2052	314	572	121	12	66	258	114	386	48	16	.279	.334	.446	.780
Sánchez, Freddy	PIT	157	582	85	200	53	2	6	85	31	52	3	2	.344	.378	.473	.851
		330	1104	150	346	81	6	11	126	60	102	5	4	.313	.352	.428	.779
Schneider, Brian	WAS	124	410	30	105	18	0	4	55	38	67	2	2	.256	.320	.329	.649
		628	1913	173	490	112	7	41	240	180	321	4	8	.256	.322	.386	.709
Soriano, Alfonso	WAS	159	647	119	179	41	2	46	95	67	160	41	17	.277	.351	.560	.911
		961	3902	624	1091	240	18	208	560	224	836	210	60	.280	.325	.510	.836
Spiezio, Scott	STL	119	276	44	75	15	4	13	52	37	66	1	0	.272	.366	.496	.862
		1192	3676	486	936	211	27	115	518	385	554	33	22	.255	.327	.421	.748
Sullivan, Cory	COL	126	386	47	103	26	10	2	30	32	100	10	6	.267	.321	.402	.722
		265	764	111	214	41	14	6	60	60	183	22	9	.280	.332	.394	.726
Sweeney, Mark	SF	114	259	32	65	15	2	5	37	28	50	0	1	.251	.330	.382	.712
		1014	1615	198	420	89	9	40	232	230	368	14	9	.260	.352	.401	.753
Taguchi, So	STL	134	316	46	84	19	1	2	31	32	48	11	3	.266	.335	.351	.686
		448	960	130	270	53	6	16	124	70	145	29	8	.281	.331	.399	.730
Taveras, Willy	HOU	149	529	83	147	19	5	1	30	34	88	33	9	.278	.333	.338	.672
		311	1122	167	319	32	9	4	59	59	192	68	20	.284	.329	.340	.668
Tracy, Chad	ARI	154	597	91	168	41	0	20	80	54	129	5	1	.281	.343	.451	.794
		442	1581	209	460	104	7	55	205	134	267	10	5	.291	.348	.470	.818
Uggla, Dan	FLA	154	611	105	172	26	7	27	90	48	123	6	6	.282	.339	.480	.818
		154	611	105	172	26	7	27	90	48	123	6	6	.282	.339	.480	.818
Utley, Chase	PHI	160	658	131	203	40	4	32	102	63	132	15	4	.309	.379	.527	.906
		444	1602	273	464	100	13	75	285	158	303	37	8	.290	.362	.509	.871
Valentín, José	NYM	137	384	56	104	24	3	18	62	37	71	6	2	.271	.330	.490	.820
		1627	5373	854	1308	291	40	246	798	615	1266	134	55	.243	.322	.450	.772
Victorino, Shane	PHI	153	415	70	119	19	8	6	46	24	54	4	3	.287	.346	.414	.760
		210	505	83	135	21	8	8	58	31	74	11	5	.267	.326	.388	.714
Vidro, José	WAS	126	463	52	134	26	1	7	47	41	48	1	0	.289	.348	.395	.744
		1186	4257	614	1280	304	12	115	550	397	463	21	15	.301	.363	.459	.821
Vizquel, Omar	SF	153	579	88	171	22	10	4	58	56	51	24	7	.295	.361	.389	.749
		2443	8966	1283	2472	398	68	73	818	897	903	366	146	.276	.342	.360	.702
Walker, Todd	CHC-SD	138	442	56	123	22	2	9	53	55	38	2	1	.278	.356	.398	.754
		1270	4506	642	1303	283	30	107	541	419	567	66	37	.289	.349	.437	.785
Weeks, Rickie	MIL	95	359	73	100	15	3	8	34	30	92	19	5	.279	.363	.404	.766
		198	731	130	188	29	5	21	76	71	194	34	7	.257	.346	.397	.743
Willingham, Josh	FLA	142	502	62	139	28	2	26	74	54	109	2	0	.277	.356	.496	.852
		170	550	67	151	29	2	27	79	60	122	2	0	.275	.356	.482	.838
Wilson, Craig	PIT	85	255	38	68	11	2	13	41	24	88	1	0	.267	.339	.478	.818
		674	1952	297	517	98	14	98	290	190	618	14	7	.265	.354	.480	.834
Wilson, Jack	PIT	142	543	70	148	27	1	8	35	33	65	4	3	.273	.316	.370	.686
		862	3257	391	863	152	28	43	280	179	412	30	20	.265	.306	.368	.674
Wilson, Preston	HOU-STL	135	501	58	132	25	2	17	72	29	121	12	2	.263	.307	.423	.730
		1083	3939	567	1041	218	16	188	663	346	1068	122	54	.264	.330	.471	.801
Winn, Randy	SF	149	573	82	150	34	5	11	56	48	63	10	8	.262	.324	.396	.721
		1142	4252	618	1208	246	49	80	457	355	707	153	77	.284	.343	.421	.765
Wright, David	NYM	154	582	96	181	40	5	26	116	66	113	20	5	.311	.381	.531	.912
		383	1420	236	434	99	7	67	258	152	266	43	12	.306	.375	.527	.902
Zimmerman, Ryan	WAS	157	614	84	176	47	3	20	110	61	120	11	8	.287	.351	.471	.822
		177	672	90	199	57	3	20	116	64	132	11	8	.296	.357	.479	.836

National League

CLUB PITCHING

CLUB	W	L	ERA	G	CG	SHO	REL	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	SO	WP	BK	OPP AVG
SAN DIEGO	88	74	3.87	162	4	11	475	50	1463.2	1385	679	629	176	50	468	63	1097	34	4	.249
HOUSTON	82	80	4.08	162	5	12	497	42	1468.2	1425	719	666	182	54	480	65	1160	44	2	.256
NEW YORK	97	65	4.14	162	5	12	474	43	1461.1	1402	731	673	180	62	527	39	1161	37	5	.253
LOS ANGELES	88	74	4.23	162	1	10	454	40	1460.1	1524	751	686	152	41	492	40	1068	54	8	.269
FLORIDA	78	84	4.37	162	6	6	438	41	1433.1	1465	772	696	166	74	622	58	1088	47	4	.267
ARIZONA	76	86	4.48	162	8	9	461	34	1459.2	1503	788	727	168	61	536	44	1115	53	4	.267
CINCINNATI	80	82	4.51	162	9	10	476	36	1445.2	1576	801	725	213	60	464	55	1053	40	9	.278
PITTSBURGH	67	95	4.52	162	2	10	505	39	1435.0	1545	797	720	156	70	620	62	1060	61	6	.281
ST. LOUIS	83	78	4.54	161	6	9	469	38	1429.2	1475	762	721	193	80	504	35	970	35	3	.268
ATLANTA	79	83	4.60	162	6	6	522	38	1441.1	1529	805	736	183	55	572	69	1049	39	2	.273
PHILADELPHIA	85	77	4.60	162	4	6	500	42	1460.1	1561	812	747	211	62	512	63	1138	58	4	.275
SAN FRANCISCO	76	85	4.63	161	7	9	438	37	1429.2	1422	790	735	153	70	584	37	992	50	7	.261
COLORADO	76	86	4.66	162	5	8	499	34	1447.1	1549	812	749	155	66	553	81	952	43	2	.277
CHICAGO	66	96	4.74	162	2	7	542	29	1439.0	1396	834	758	210	67	687	44	1250	68	4	.255
MILWAUKEE	75	87	4.82	162	7	8	427	43	1425.2	1454	833	763	177	74	514	34	1145	57	2	.265
WASHINGTON	71	91	5.03	162	1	3	517	32	1436.1	1535	872	803	193	92	584	93	960	47	10	.274

Individual Pitching — 2006 Season and Career Stats (min. 60 IP in NL, AL totals not included in 2006 season totals)

Pitcher	Team	G	GS	W	L	SV	CG	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	K	ERA	WHIP	BAA
Armas, Tony	WAS	30	30	9	12	0	0	0	154.0	167	96	86	19	64	97	5.03	1.50	.279
		151	151	48	60	0	0	0	820.1	769	444	406	102	392	601	4.45	1.42	.250
Arroyo, Bronson	CIN	35	35	14	11	0	3	1	240.2	222	98	88	31	64	184	3.29	1.19	.243
		161	125	47	44	1	4	1	829.0	833	447	388	93	254	551	4.21	1.31	.260
Astacio, Pedro	WAS	17	17	5	5	0	1	1	90.1	109	64	60	14	31	42	5.98	1.55	.301
		392	343	129	124	0	31	12	2196.2	2292	1213	1140	291	726	1664	4.67	1.37	.271
Batista, Miguel	ARI	34	33	11	8	0	3	1	206.1	231	116	105	18	84	110	4.58	1.53	.288
		397	185	68	79	37	10	4	1381.2	1420	767	685	133	591	870	4.46	1.46	.269
Beimel, Joe	LAD	62	0	2	1	2	0	0	70.0	70	26	23	7	21	30	2.96	1.30	.262
		236	23	12	20	2	0	0	345.2	381	194	181	37	154	188	4.71	1.55	.284
Bergmann, Jason	WAS	29	6	0	2	0	0	0	64.2	81	49	48	12	27	54	6.68	1.67	.312
		44	7	2	2	0	0	0	84.1	95	55	54	13	38	75	5.76	1.58	.288
Billingsley, Chad	LAD	18	16	7	4	0	0	0	90.0	92	43	38	7	58	59	3.80	1.67	.272
		18	16	7	4	0	0	0	90.0	92	43	38	7	58	59	3.80	1.67	.272
Borkowski, Dave	HOU	40	0	3	2	0	0	0	71.0	70	38	37	8	23	52	4.69	1.31	.257
		91	21	8	15	0	0	0	238.2	262	167	155	31	100	178	5.84	1.52	.278
Borowski, Joe	FLA	72	0	3	3	36	0	0	69.2	63	31	29	7	33	64	3.75	1.38	.235
		336	1	17	26	80	0	0	372.0	349	169	160	40	152	305	3.87	1.35	.247
Bradford, Chad	NYM	70	0	4	2	2	0	0	62.0	59	22	20	1	13	45	2.90	1.16	.254
		395	0	27	18	9	0	0	381.1	369	161	144	23	104	261	3.40	1.24	.255
Broxton, Jonathan	LAD	68	0	4	1	3	0	0	76.1	61	25	22	7	33	97	2.59	1.23	.216
		82	0	5	1	3	0	0	90.0	74	36	31	7	45	119	3.10	1.32	.221
Buchholz, Taylor	HOU	22	19	6	10	0	1	1	113.0	107	80	74	21	34	77	5.89	1.25	.248
		22	19	6	10	0	1	1	113.0	107	80	74	21	34	77	5.89	1.25	.248
Bush, Dave	MIL	34	32	12	11	0	3	2	210.0	201	111	103	26	38	166	4.41	1.14	.252
		75	72	22	26	0	6	3	444.0	438	231	211	57	92	305	4.28	1.19	.258
Cain, Matt	SF	32	31	13	12	0	1	1	190.2	157	93	88	18	87	179	4.15	1.28	.222
		39	38	15	13	0	2	1	237.0	181	105	100	22	106	209	3.80	1.21	.209
Capellán, José	MIL	61	0	4	2	0	0	0	71.2	65	37	35	11	31	58	4.40	1.34	.244
		81	2	5	4	0	0	0	95.1	96	53	50	14	41	76	4.72	1.44	.267
Capps, Matt	PIT	85	0	9	1	1	0	0	80.2	81	37	34	12	12	56	3.79	1.15	.266
		89	0	9	1	1	0	0	84.2	86	39	36	12	12	59	3.83	1.16	.270
Capuano, Chris	MIL	34	34	11	12	0	3	2	221.1	229	108	99	29	47	174	4.03	1.25	.265
		95	91	37	36	0	3	2	561.2	559	287	262	81	186	453	4.20	1.33	.261
Carpenter, Chris	STL	32	32	15	8	0	5	3	221.2	194	81	76	21	43	184	3.09	1.07	.235
		245	228	100	68	0	25	12	1516.0	1551	758	689	174	463	1161	4.09	1.33	.266
Claussen, Brandon	CIN	14	14	3	8	0	0	0	77.0	93	56	53	14	28	57	6.19	1.57	.301
		58	58	16	27	0	0	0	316.0	359	197	177	48	121	228	5.04	1.52	.286
Clemens, Roger	HOU	19	19	7	6	0	0	0	113.1	89	34	29	7	29	102	2.30	1.04	.216
		691	690	348	178	0	118	46	4817.2	4086	1833	1661	354	1549	4604	3.10	1.17	.228
Coffey, Todd	CIN	81	0	6	7	8	0	0	78.0	85	34	31	7	27	60	3.58	1.44	.274
		138	0	10	8	9	0	0	136.0	169	67	60	12	38	86	3.97	1.52	.305
Cook, Aaron	COL	32	32	9	15	0	0	0	212.2	242	107	100	17	55	92	4.23	1.40	.288
		113	82	28	28	0	4	0	552.1	656	299	281	44	180	213	4.58	1.51	.298
Cordero, Chad	WAS	68	0	7	4	29	0	0	73.1	59	27	26	13	22	69	3.19	1.10	.215
		223	0	17	11	91	0	0	241.1	186	81	70	31	85	225	2.61	1.12	.208
Cormier, Lance	ATL	29	9	4	5	0	0	0	73.2	90	44	40	8	39	43	4.89	1.75	.314
		113	14	12	12	0	0	0	198.1	238	136	126	28	107	130	5.72	1.74	.307
Correia, Kevin	SF	48	0	2	0	0	0	0	69.2	64	27	27	5	22	57	3.49	1.23	.242
		86	19	7	7	0	0	0	186.1	191	94	90	26	81	143	4.35	1.46	.268

Pitcher	Team	G	GS	W	L	SV	CG	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	K	ERA	WHIP	BAA
Cruz, Juan	ARI	31	15	5	6	0	0	0	94.2	80	45	44	7	47	88	4.18	1.34	.230
		187	38	19	30	1	0	0	402.1	367	218	193	41	203	377	4.32	1.42	.245
Davies, Kyle	ATL	14	14	3	7	0	1	0	63.1	90	60	59	14	33	51	8.38	1.94	.332
		35	28	10	13	0	1	0	151.0	188	111	107	22	82	113	6.38	1.79	.303
Davis, Doug	MIL	34	34	11	11	0	1	1	203.1	206	118	111	19	102	159	4.91	1.51	.266
		196	176	62	63	0	7	3	1089.2	1125	570	527	113	474	807	4.35	1.47	.268
Dempster, Ryan	CHC	74	0	1	9	24	0	0	75.0	77	47	40	5	36	67	4.80	1.51	.262
		321	162	57	68	59	8	2	1151.2	1184	656	618	130	601	952	4.83	1.55	.268
Duke, Zach	PIT	34	34	10	15	0	2	1	215.1	255	116	107	17	68	117	4.47	1.50	.302
		48	48	18	17	0	2	1	300.0	334	136	124	20	91	175	3.72	1.42	.289
Eyre, Scott	CHC	74	0	1	3	0	0	0	61.1	61	25	23	11	30	73	3.38	1.48	.265
		482	32	19	28	4	0	0	541.1	550	293	264	75	274	438	4.39	1.52	.264
Feliciano, Pedro	NYM	64	0	7	2	0	0	0	60.1	56	15	14	4	20	54	2.09	1.26	.248
		115	0	8	3	0	0	0	133.0	131	53	48	11	54	115	3.25	1.39	.256
Fogg, Josh	COL	31	31	11	9	0	1	1	172.0	206	115	105	24	60	93	5.49	1.55	.300
		167	150	50	51	0	2	1	869.1	970	514	472	118	291	461	4.89	1.45	.285
Francis, Jeff	COL	32	32	13	11	0	1	1	199.0	187	101	92	18	69	117	4.16	1.29	.250
		72	72	30	25	0	1	1	419.1	457	242	229	52	152	277	4.91	1.45	.281
Franklin, Ryan	CIN-PHI	66	0	6	7	0	0	0	77.1	86	42	39	13	33	43	4.54	1.54	.285
		247	106	41	57	0	6	3	888.2	924	461	430	137	271	470	4.35	1.34	.268
Fuentes, Brian	COL	66	0	3	4	30	0	0	65.1	50	25	25	8	26	73	3.44	1.16	.209
		307	0	13	17	65	0	0	298.0	250	124	120	32	134	342	3.62	1.29	.229
Fultz, Aaron	PHI	66	1	3	1	0	0	0	71.1	80	39	36	7	28	62	4.54	1.51	.288
		414	1	21	12	3	0	0	442.2	436	231	215	48	169	366	4.37	1.37	.262
Geary, Geoff	PHI	81	0	7	1	1	0	0	91.1	103	34	30	6	20	60	2.96	1.35	.287
		159	0	10	2	1	0	0	200.0	217	95	84	19	60	135	3.78	1.39	.279
Glavine, Tom	NYM	32	32	15	7	0	0	0	198.0	202	94	84	22	62	131	3.82	1.33	.267
		635	635	290	191	0	55	24	4149.2	4012	1758	1596	322	1399	2481	3.46	1.30	.256
González, Enrique	ARI	22	18	3	7	0	0	0	106.1	114	71	67	14	34	66	5.67	1.39	.275
		22	18	3	7	0	0	0	106.1	114	71	67	14	34	66	5.67	1.39	.275
Gordon, Tom	PHI	59	0	3	4	34	0	0	59.1	53	23	22	9	22	68	3.34	1.26	.233
		809	203	130	119	150	18	4	2036.2	1815	972	885	166	944	1870	3.91	1.35	.238
Gorzelanny, Tom	PIT	11	11	2	5	0	0	0	61.2	50	29	26	3	31	40	3.79	1.31	.226
		14	12	2	6	0	0	0	67.2	60	37	34	4	34	43	4.52	1.39	.241
Grabow, John	PIT	72	0	4	2	0	0	0	69.2	68	34	32	7	30	66	4.13	1.41	.260
		208	0	8	10	1	0	0	188.1	201	107	97	21	83	181	4.64	1.51	.276
Hamels, Cole	PHI	23	23	9	8	0	0	0	132.1	117	66	60	19	48	145	4.08	1.25	.237
		23	23	9	8	0	0	0	132.1	117	66	60	19	48	145	4.08	1.25	.237
Hancock, Josh	STL	62	0	3	3	1	0	0	77.0	70	37	35	9	23	50	4.09	1.21	.241
		94	12	9	6	1	0	0	165.0	161	88	78	28	54	101	4.25	1.30	.252
Harang, Aaron	CIN	36	35	16	11	0	6	2	234.1	242	109	98	28	56	216	3.76	1.27	.269
		128	125	47	43	0	8	3	761.2	803	383	362	94	224	610	4.28	1.35	.273
Heilman, Aaron	NYM	74	0	4	5	0	0	0	87.0	73	37	35	5	28	73	3.62	1.16	.231
		146	25	12	18	5	1	1	288.1	266	147	139	28	119	252	4.34	1.34	.247
Hendrickson, Mark	LAD	18	12	2	7	0	0	0	75.0	92	45	39	7	28	48	4.68	1.60	.299
		140	120	39	47	0	5	2	721.1	843	448	399	87	209	372	4.98	1.46	.291
Hennessey, Brad	SF	34	12	5	6	1	0	0	99.1	92	53	47	12	42	42	4.26	1.35	.251
		62	40	12	16	1	0	0	252.0	261	140	127	29	109	131	4.54	1.47	.269
Hensley, Clay	SD	37	29	11	12	0	1	1	187.0	174	82	77	15	76	122	3.71	1.34	.250
		61	30	12	13	0	1	1	234.2	207	94	86	15	93	150	3.30	1.28	.240
Herges, Matt	FLA	66	0	2	3	0	0	0	71.0	94	42	34	5	28	36	4.31	1.72	.321
		444	4	32	29	34	0	0	543.1	588	264	235	52	210	371	3.89	1.47	.280
Hernández, Liván	WAS-ARI	34	34	13	13	0	0	0	216.0	246	125	116	29	78	128	4.83	1.50	.288
		318	317	123	117	0	42	7	2166.2	2302	1090	1007	237	751	1456	4.18	1.41	.275
Hernández, Orlando	NYM-ARI	29	29	11	11	0	1	0	162.1	155	90	84	22	61	164	4.66	1.33	.252
		192	187	81	60	2	9	2	1167.0	1072	577	543	154	415	958	4.19	1.27	.243
Hill, Rich	CHC	17	16	6	7	0	2	1	99.1	83	51	46	16	39	90	4.17	1.23	.227
		27	20	6	9	0	2	1	123.0	108	75	70	19	56	111	5.12	1.33	.234
Hoffman, Trevor	SD	65	0	0	2	46	0	0	63.0	48	16	15	6	13	50	2.14	0.97	.205
		821	0	49	55	482	0	0	885.1	675	296	267	80	250	965	2.71	1.04	.208
Howry, Bob	CHC	84	0	4	5	5	0	0	76.2	70	28	27	8	17	71	3.17	1.13	.245
		518	0	29	31	57	0	0	537.0	468	229	210	59	185	462	3.52	1.22	.236
Hudson, Tim	ATL	35	35	13	12	0	2	1	218.1	235	129	118	25	79	141	4.86	1.44	.273
		247	247	119	60	0	20	9	1651.0	1563	717	648	139	526	1155	3.53	1.27	.250
Isringhausen, Jason	STL	59	0	4	8	33	0	0	58.1	47	25	23	10	38	52	3.55	1.46	.222
		507	52	40	44	249	3	1	799.1	725	354	319	63	339	659	3.59	1.33	.242
James, Chuck	ATL	25	18	11	4	0	0	0	119.0	101	54	50	20	47	91	3.78	1.24	.232
		27	18	11	4	0	0	0	124.2	105	55	51	20	50	96	3.68	1.24	.231
Jennings, Jason	COL	32	32	9	13	0	3	2	212.0	206	94	89	17	85	142	3.78	1.37	.258
		156	156	58	56	0	6	3	941.0	1032	530	496	103	425	622	4.74	1.55	.282
Johnson, Josh	FLA	31	24	12	7	0	0	0	157.0	136	63	54	14	68	133	3.10	1.30	.236
		35	25	12	7	0	0	0	169.1	147	68	59	14	78	143	3.14	1.33	.237
Julio, Jorge	NYM-ARI	62	0	2	4	16	0	0	66.0	52	35	31	10	35	88	4.23	1.32	.210
		343	0	13	28	99	0	0	357.2	327	191	167	52	168	345	4.20	1.38	.239
Kim, Byung-Hyun	COL	27	27	8	12	0	0	0	155.0	179	103	96	18	61	129	5.57	1.55	.295
		366	65	44	52	86	0	0	722.2	650	361	333	74	308	699	4.15	1.33	.241
Lidge, Brad	HOU	78	0	1	5	32	0	0	75.0	69	47	44	10	36	104	5.28	1.40	.238
		312	1	18	17	104	0	0	334.0	256	131	122	29	140	473	3.29	1.19	.211
Lidle, Cory	PHI	21	21	8	7	0	0	0	125.1	132	74	66	19	39	98	4.74	1.36	.271
		277	199	82	72	2	11	5	1322.2	1400	738	671	159	356	838	4.57	1.33	.272
Lieber, Jon	PHI	27	27	9	11	0	2	1	168.0	196	100	92	27	24	100	4.93	1.31	.291
		361	314	126	115	2	24	4	2073.1	2238	1090	981	268	394	1472	4.26	1.27	.274
Linebrink, Scott	SD	73	0	7	4	2	0	0	75.2	70	31	30	9	22	68	3.57	1.22	.243
		313	6	25	10	3	0	0	372.1	334	140	129	36	134	328	3.12	1.26	.242

National League PITCHING

Pitcher	Team	G	GS	W	L	SV	CG	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	K	ERA	WHIP	BAA
Lohse, Kyle	CIN	12	11	3	5	0	0	0	63.0	70	33	32	7	19	51	4.57	1.41	.287
		184	163	54	62	0	4	3	971.1	1095	555	525	135	308	612	4.86	1.44	.285
Looper, Braden	STL	69	0	9	3	0	0	0	73.1	76	30	29	3	20	41	3.56	1.31	.277
		572	0	34	32	103	0	0	607.1	617	270	241	46	213	374	3.57	1.37	.265
Lowe, Derek	LAD	35	34	16	8	0	1	0	218.0	221	97	88	14	55	123	3.63	1.27	.262
		466	189	100	82	85	5	3	1530.0	1527	741	647	122	442	981	3.81	1.29	.259
Lowry, Noah	SF	27	27	7	10	0	1	1	159.1	166	89	84	21	56	84	4.74	1.39	.273
		80	74	26	23	0	3	2	462.1	451	222	209	52	162	333	4.07	1.33	.257
Lyon, Brandon	ARI	68	0	2	4	0	0	0	69.1	68	32	30	7	22	46	3.89	1.30	.258
		175	21	12	20	23	0	0	282.2	326	168	153	39	85	178	4.87	1.45	.289
Maddux, Greg	CHC-LAD	34	34	15	14	0	0	0	210.0	219	109	98	20	37	117	4.20	1.22	.271
		677	673	333	203	0	108	35	4616.1	4301	1784	1574	318	944	3169	3.07	1.14	.248
Madson, Ryan	PHI	50	17	11	9	2	0	0	134.1	176	92	85	20	50	99	5.69	1.68	.321
		181	18	26	17	3	0	0	300.1	328	159	145	37	94	233	4.35	1.41	.282
Maholm, Paul	PIT	30	30	8	10	0	0	0	176.0	202	98	93	19	81	117	4.76	1.61	.295
		36	36	11	11	0	0	0	217.1	233	108	103	21	98	143	4.27	1.52	.280
Maine, John	NYM	16	15	6	5	0	1	1	90.0	69	40	36	15	33	71	3.60	1.13	.212
		27	24	8	9	0	1	1	133.2	115	74	68	24	60	96	4.58	1.31	.230
Majewski, Gary	WAS-CIN	65	0	4	4	0	0	0	70.1	79	38	36	5	29	43	4.61	1.54	.283
		160	0	8	9	2	0	0	177.1	187	85	73	9	71	105	3.70	1.45	.272
Marmol, Carlos	CHC	19	13	5	7	0	0	0	77.0	71	54	52	14	59	59	6.08	1.69	.250
		19	13	5	7	0	0	0	77.0	71	54	52	14	59	59	6.08	1.69	.250
Marquis, Jason	STL	33	33	14	16	0	0	0	194.1	221	136	130	35	75	96	6.02	1.52	.289
		194	137	56	52	1	3	1	910.1	948	507	460	130	352	552	4.55	1.43	.270
Marshall, Sean	CHC	24	24	6	9	0	0	0	125.2	132	85	78	20	59	77	5.59	1.52	.270
		24	24	6	9	0	0	0	125.2	132	85	78	20	59	77	5.59	1.52	.270
Martin, Tom	COL	68	0	2	0	0	0	0	60.1	62	37	34	4	25	46	5.07	1.44	.264
		350	0	11	9	3	0	0	291.0	307	167	159	32	134	214	4.92	1.52	.273
Martínez, Pedro	NYM	23	23	9	8	0	0	0	132.2	108	72	66	19	39	137	4.48	1.11	.220
		442	375	206	92	3	46	17	2645.2	2013	907	825	213	701	2998	2.81	1.03	.209
Medders, Brandon	ARI	60	0	5	3	0	0	0	71.2	76	37	29	5	28	47	3.64	1.45	.270
		87	0	9	4	0	0	0	102.0	97	43	35	7	39	78	3.09	1.33	.249
Mesa, José	COL	79	0	1	5	1	0	0	72.1	73	32	31	9	36	39	3.86	1.51	.270
		966	95	78	106	320	6	2	1498.0	1576	763	710	142	626	1009	4.27	1.47	.273
Messenger, Randy	FLA	59	0	2	7	0	0	0	60.1	72	42	38	8	24	45	5.67	1.59	.296
		88	0	2	7	0	0	0	97.1	111	64	60	13	54	74	5.55	1.70	.288
Milton, Eric	CIN	26	26	8	8	0	0	0	152.2	163	94	88	29	42	90	5.19	1.34	.269
		260	259	87	80	0	10	4	1527.1	1596	902	850	261	438	1089	5.01	1.33	.265
Moehler, Brian	FLA	29	21	7	11	0	0	0	122.0	164	95	89	19	38	58	6.57	1.66	.325
		210	189	63	79	0	10	6	1146.1	1348	656	609	145	324	622	4.78	1.46	.295
Morris, Matt	SF	33	33	10	15	0	2	0	207.2	218	123	115	22	63	117	4.98	1.35	.268
		270	239	111	77	4	20	8	1585.0	1586	735	667	151	441	1103	3.79	1.28	.262
Mulder, Mark	STL	17	17	6	7	0	0	0	93.1	124	77	74	19	35	50	7.14	1.70	.327
		199	199	103	57	0	25	10	1301.1	1326	638	594	137	403	829	4.11	1.33	.267
Myers, Brett	PHI	31	31	12	7	0	1	0	198.0	194	93	86	29	63	189	3.91	1.30	.257
		141	140	54	40	0	6	2	854.1	861	437	412	122	298	690	4.34	1.36	.262
Nieve, Fernando	HOU	40	11	3	3	0	0	0	96.1	87	46	45	18	41	70	4.20	1.33	.242
		40	11	3	3	0	0	0	96.1	87	46	45	18	41	70	4.20	1.33	.242
Nolasco, Ricky	FLA	35	22	11	11	0	0	0	140.0	157	86	75	20	41	99	4.82	1.41	.287
		35	22	11	11	0	0	0	140.0	157	86	75	20	41	99	4.82	1.41	.287
Novoa, Roberto	CHC	66	0	2	1	0	0	0	76.0	77	47	36	15	32	53	4.26	1.43	.262
		131	0	7	7	0	0	0	141.2	149	84	71	23	63	115	4.51	1.50	.269
O'Connor, Mike	WAS	21	20	3	8	0	0	0	105.0	96	61	56	15	45	59	4.80	1.34	.244
		21	20	3	8	0	0	0	105.0	96	61	56	15	45	59	4.80	1.34	.244
Ohka, Tomo	MIL	18	18	4	5	0	0	0	97.0	98	58	52	12	35	50	4.82	1.37	.266
		174	162	48	58	0	5	1	943.0	1037	482	423	112	261	538	4.04	1.38	.280
Ohman, Will	CHC	78	0	1	1	0	0	0	65.1	51	30	30	6	34	74	4.13	1.30	.208
		164	0	4	4	0	0	0	123.2	101	57	57	14	68	133	4.15	1.37	.217
Oliver, Darren	NYM	45	0	4	1	0	0	0	81.0	70	33	31	13	21	60	3.44	1.12	.231
		351	228	91	80	2	11	4	1488.0	1661	894	824	185	603	894	4.98	1.52	.285
Olsen, Scott	FLA	31	31	12	10	0	0	0	180.2	160	94	81	23	75	166	4.04	1.30	.239
		36	35	13	11	0	0	0	201.0	181	107	90	28	85	187	4.03	1.32	.241
Ortiz, Ramón	WAS	33	33	11	16	0	0	0	190.2	230	127	118	31	64	104	5.57	1.54	.297
		220	200	79	76	0	10	1	1255.2	1341	737	677	201	440	790	4.85	1.42	.273
Oswalt, Roy	HOU	33	32	15	8	0	2	0	220.2	220	76	73	18	38	166	2.98	1.17	.263
		188	177	98	47	0	11	4	1201.1	1153	443	407	98	263	1016	3.05	1.18	.254
Park, Chan Ho	SD	24	21	7	7	0	1	1	136.2	146	81	73	20	44	96	4.81	1.39	.271
		323	274	113	87	0	10	3	1746.2	1620	914	848	202	820	1507	4.37	1.40	.247
Peavy, Jake	SD	32	32	11	14	0	2	0	202.1	187	93	92	23	62	215	4.09	1.23	.242
		138	138	57	45	0	5	3	864.0	774	360	337	98	280	850	3.51	1.22	.238
Penny, Brad	LAD	34	33	16	9	0	0	0	189.0	206	94	91	19	54	148	4.33	1.38	.279
		197	195	72	62	0	3	2	1157.2	1167	561	522	115	360	846	4.06	1.32	.263
Pérez, Oliver	PIT-NYM	22	22	3	13	0	1	1	112.2	129	90	82	20	68	102	6.55	1.75	.293
		112	111	30	43	0	3	2	628.1	576	346	326	100	344	673	4.67	1.46	.246
Pettitte, Andy	HOU	36	35	14	13	0	2	1	214.1	238	114	100	27	70	178	4.20	1.44	.284
		367	359	186	104	0	25	4	2312.1	2398	1090	980	195	721	1703	3.81	1.35	.268
Ponson, Sidney	STL	14	13	4	4	0	0	0	68.2	82	42	40	7	29	33	5.24	1.62	.308
		252	238	80	96	1	28	4	1528.1	1701	881	830	196	519	918	4.89	1.45	.284
Qualls, Chad	HOU	81	0	7	3	0	0	0	88.2	76	38	37	10	28	56	3.76	1.17	.242
		183	0	17	7	1	0	0	201.1	183	84	79	20	59	140	3.53	1.20	.249
Ramírez, Elizardo	CIN	21	19	4	9	0	0	0	104.0	123	70	62	14	29	69	5.37	1.46	.293
		34	23	4	12	0	0	0	141.1	173	100	91	22	44	87	5.79	1.54	.300

Pitcher	Team	G	GS	W	L	SV	CG	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	K	ERA	WHIP	BAA
Ramírez, Horacio	ATL	14	14	5	5	0	0	0	76.1	85	42	38	6	31	37	4.48	1.52	.287
		86	84	30	22	0	3	1	521.1	531	265	239	65	200	248	4.13	1.40	.270
Ramírez, Ramón	COL	61	0	4	3	0	0	0	67.2	58	28	26	5	27	61	3.46	1.26	.230
		61	0	4	3	0	0	0	67.2	58	28	26	5	27	61	3.46	1.26	.230
Rauch, Jon	WAS	85	0	4	5	2	0	0	91.1	78	37	34	13	36	86	3.35	1.25	.231
		119	11	12	11	2	0	0	182.0	160	85	77	24	72	150	3.81	1.27	.236
Ray, Ken	ATL	69	0	1	1	5	0	0	67.2	66	36	34	9	38	50	4.52	1.54	.259
		82	0	2	1	5	0	0	79.0	89	48	45	11	44	50	5.13	1.68	.292
Reyes, Anthony	STL	17	17	5	8	0	1	0	85.1	84	48	48	17	34	72	5.06	1.38	.262
		21	18	6	9	0	1	0	98.2	90	52	52	19	38	84	4.74	1.30	.246
Rivera, Saul	WAS	54	0	3	0	1	0	0	60.1	59	28	23	4	32	41	3.43	1.51	.250
		54	0	3	0	1	0	0	60.1	59	28	23	4	32	41	3.43	1.51	.250
Rodríguez, Wandy	HOU	30	24	9	10	0	0	0	135.2	154	96	85	17	63	98	5.64	1.60	.290
		55	46	19	20	0	0	0	264.1	289	178	164	36	116	178	5.58	1.53	.282
Rusch, Glendon	CHC	25	9	3	8	0	0	0	66.1	86	57	55	21	33	59	7.46	1.79	.320
		296	211	60	94	4	11	3	1375.0	1603	815	765	178	432	1020	5.01	1.48	.293
Saito, Takashi	LAD	72	0	6	2	24	0	0	78.1	48	19	18	3	23	107	2.07	0.91	.177
		72	0	6	2	24	0	0	78.1	48	19	18	3	23	107	2.07	0.91	.177
Sánchez, Aníbal	FLA	18	17	10	3	0	2	1	114.1	90	39	36	9	46	72	2.83	1.19	.217
		18	17	10	3	0	2	1	114.1	90	39	36	9	46	72	2.83	1.19	.217
Santos, Víctor	PIT	25	19	5	9	0	0	0	115.1	150	80	73	16	42	81	5.70	1.66	.321
		150	84	22	42	0	1	0	539.0	604	346	308	71	246	377	5.14	1.58	.283
Schmidt, Jason	SF	32	32	11	9	0	3	1	213.1	189	94	85	21	80	180	3.59	1.26	.238
		313	304	127	90	0	20	9	1953.0	1798	926	849	179	766	1728	3.91	1.31	.244
Sele, Aaron	LAD	28	15	8	6	0	0	0	103.1	120	57	52	11	30	57	4.53	1.45	.290
		370	352	145	110	0	15	9	2099.1	2335	1174	1070	220	777	1378	4.59	1.48	.283
Seo, Jae	LAD	19	10	2	4	0	0	0	67.0	75	45	43	14	25	49	5.78	1.49	.284
		107	92	25	36	0	1	0	554.1	607	288	263	75	168	312	4.27	1.40	.281
Sheets, Ben	MIL	17	17	6	7	0	0	0	106.0	105	47	45	9	11	116	3.82	1.09	.259
		166	166	61	69	0	11	1	1088.1	1083	514	463	126	229	942	3.83	1.21	.258
Smoltz, John	ATL	35	35	16	9	0	3	1	232.0	221	93	90	23	55	211	3.49	1.19	.251
		670	429	193	137	154	53	16	3161.1	2758	1250	1150	257	937	2778	3.27	1.17	.234
Snell, Ian	PIT	32	32	14	11	0	0	0	186.0	198	104	98	29	74	169	4.74	1.46	.277
		50	38	15	14	0	0	0	240.0	255	139	132	36	107	212	4.95	1.51	.276
Sosa, Jorge	ATL-STL	45	13	3	11	4	0	0	118.0	138	79	71	30	40	75	5.42	1.51	.292
		192	74	27	40	5	1	1	579.1	585	322	297	89	272	374	4.61	1.48	.262
Stanton, Mike	WAS-SF	82	0	7	7	8	0	0	67.2	70	30	30	2	27	48	3.99	1.43	.275
		1109	1	67	60	84	0	0	1056.1	1011	484	447	87	402	855	3.81	1.34	.254
Suppan, Jeff	STL	32	32	12	7	0	0	0	190.0	207	100	87	21	69	104	4.12	1.45	.277
		317	301	106	101	0	15	5	1864.2	2029	1042	954	247	612	1048	4.60	1.42	.278
Thompson, Mike	SD	19	16	4	5	0	0	0	92.0	103	56	51	13	30	35	4.99	1.45	.285
		19	16	4	5	0	0	0	92.0	103	56	51	13	30	35	4.99	1.45	.285
Thomson, John	ATL	18	15	2	7	0	0	0	80.1	93	55	43	11	32	46	4.82	1.56	.295
		214	210	62	84	0	10	3	1259.2	1385	729	657	154	366	797	4.69	1.39	.281
Tomko, Brett	LAD	44	15	8	7	0	0	0	112.1	123	67	59	17	29	76	4.73	1.35	.276
		306	231	89	80	2	12	1	1539.2	1601	838	776	210	493	1008	4.54	1.36	.268
Torres, Salomón	PIT	94	0	3	6	12	0	0	93.1	98	42	34	6	38	72	3.28	1.46	.274
		370	64	35	49	17	3	1	714.2	725	377	343	78	299	444	4.32	1.43	.267
Trachsel, Steve	NYM	30	30	15	8	0	1	0	164.2	185	94	91	23	78	79	4.97	1.60	.288
		381	380	134	143	0	19	7	2303.1	2358	1197	1096	319	840	1519	4.28	1.39	.267
Vargas, Claudio	ARI	31	30	12	10	0	0	0	167.2	185	101	90	27	52	123	4.83	1.41	.274
		124	87	32	32	0	0	0	532.1	562	316	291	94	204	369	4.92	1.44	.269
Villarreal, Oscar	ATL	58	4	9	1	0	0	0	92.1	93	41	37	13	27	55	3.61	1.30	.261
		172	5	21	10	0	0	0	222.0	209	103	87	24	86	157	3.53	1.33	.250
Vizcaíno, Luis	ARI	70	0	4	6	0	0	0	65.1	51	26	26	8	29	72	3.58	1.22	.215
		408	0	25	23	7	0	0	410.0	371	201	193	61	163	369	4.24	1.30	.241
Wagner, Billy	NYM	70	0	3	2	40	0	0	72.1	59	22	18	7	21	94	2.24	1.11	.219
		654	0	37	34	324	0	0	702.2	468	204	186	66	238	934	2.38	1.00	.187
Wainwright, Adam	STL	61	0	2	1	3	0	0	75.0	64	26	26	6	22	72	3.12	1.15	.230
		63	0	2	1	3	0	0	77.0	66	29	29	7	23	72	3.39	1.16	.231
Weathers, David	CIN	67	0	4	4	12	0	0	73.2	61	31	29	12	34	50	3.54	1.29	.226
		754	69	63	70	41	0	0	1167.1	1236	622	567	113	519	845	4.37	1.50	.276
Weaver, Jeff	STL	15	15	5	4	0	0	0	83.1	99	49	48	16	26	45	5.18	1.50	.297
		257	240	86	101	2	13	5	1568.0	1672	854	798	192	428	1044	4.58	1.34	.273
Webb, Brandon	ARI	33	33	16	8	0	5	3	235.0	216	91	81	15	50	178	3.10	1.13	.246
		130	129	47	45	0	8	4	852.2	779	365	311	65	296	686	3.28	1.26	.245
Wheeler, Dan	HOU	75	0	3	5	9	0	0	71.1	58	22	20	5	24	68	2.52	1.15	.221
		257	9	11	17	14	0	0	332.0	330	147	141	40	109	288	3.82	1.32	.258
White, Rick	CIN-PHI	64	0	4	1	1	0	0	64.2	72	44	37	8	20	40	5.15	1.42	.293
		584	18	41	53	16	0	0	824.0	883	454	395	87	271	524	4.31	1.40	.278
Williams, Dave	CIN-NYM	14	13	5	4	0	0	0	69.0	93	52	50	14	20	32	6.52	1.64	.326
		80	71	22	30	0	1	1	403.2	399	226	208	62	160	243	4.64	1.38	.261
Williams, Woody	SD	25	24	12	5	0	0	0	145.1	152	68	59	21	35	72	3.65	1.29	.267
		391	299	124	101	0	10	2	2028.1	2001	982	921	274	658	1379	4.09	1.31	.257
Willis, Dontrelle	FLA	34	34	12	12	0	4	1	223.1	234	106	96	21	83	160	3.87	1.42	.274
		127	127	58	39	0	15	8	817.1	805	345	312	65	257	611	3.44	1.30	.259
Wright, Jamey	SF	34	21	6	10	0	0	0	156.0	167	95	90	16	64	79	5.19	1.48	.282
		260	237	67	98	0	6	3	1461.2	1609	911	834	163	723	781	5.14	1.60	.287
Young, Chris	SD	31	31	11	5	0	0	0	179.1	134	72	69	28	69	164	3.46	1.13	.206
		69	69	26	14	0	0	0	380.1	332	177	166	54	124	328	3.93	1.20	.231
Zambrano, Carlos	CHC	33	33	16	7	0	0	0	214.0	162	91	81	20	115	210	3.41	1.29	.208
		167	146	64	42	0	6	2	977.0	799	406	357	75	447	865	3.29	1.28	.224

American League

CLUB BATTING

CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	OR	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	GS	RBI	SH	SF	HP	BB	IBB	SO	SB	CS	GIDP	LOB	SHO	SLG	OBP
MINNESOTA	.287	162	5602	801	683	1608	2380	275	34	143	7	754	31	55	50	490	46	872	101	42	163	1143	14	.425	.347
NEW YORK	.285	162	5651	930	767	1608	2607	327	21	210	6	902	34	49	72	649	43	1053	139	35	139	1253	4	.461	.363
TORONTO	.284	162	5596	809	754	1591	2590	348	27	199	7	778	16	52	63	514	31	906	65	33	166	1162	6	.463	.348
CLEVELAND	.280	162	5619	870	782	1576	2569	351	27	196	14	839	30	43	54	556	42	1204	55	23	127	1162	6	.457	.349
CHICAGO	.280	162	5657	868	794	1586	2625	291	20	236	11	839	44	57	58	502	33	1056	93	48	118	1125	6	.464	.342
TEXAS	.278	162	5659	835	784	1571	2523	357	23	183	8	799	18	50	40	505	35	1061	53	24	148	1139	7	.446	.338
BALTIMORE	.277	162	5610	768	899	1556	2376	288	20	164	1	727	40	41	73	474	35	878	121	32	145	1177	8	.424	.339
LOS ANGELES	.274	162	5609	766	732	1539	2383	309	29	159	2	737	31	53	42	486	49	914	148	57	126	1121	8	.425	.334
DETROIT	.274	162	5642	822	675	1548	2531	294	40	203	2	785	45	36	45	430	27	1133	60	40	120	1068	8	.449	.329
SEATTLE	.272	162	5670	756	792	1540	2406	266	42	172	7	703	38	38	63	404	49	974	106	37	117	1110	15	.424	.325
KANSAS CITY	.271	162	5589	757	971	1515	2296	335	37	124	1	718	52	48	64	474	32	1040	65	34	130	1144	11	.411	.332
BOSTON	.269	162	5619	820	825	1510	2445	327	16	192	4	777	22	56	66	672	56	1056	51	23	136	1301	8	.435	.351
OAKLAND	.260	162	5500	771	727	1429	2264	266	22	175	5	735	25	56	50	650	28	976	61	20	170	1187	11	.412	.340
TAMPA BAY	.255	162	5474	689	856	1395	2298	267	33	190	2	650	35	43	47	441	23	1106	134	52	101	1038	7	.420	.314

Individual Batting — 2006 Season and Career Stats (min. 225 ABs in the AL, NL stats not included in 2006 totals)

Batter	Team	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	K	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Adams, Russ	TOR	90	251	31	55	14	1	3	28	22	41	1	2	.219	.282	.319	.600
		251	804	109	200	43	7	15	101	77	103	13	4	.249	.314	.376	.690
Anderson, Brian	CWS	134	365	46	82	23	1	8	33	30	90	4	7	.225	.290	.359	.649
		147	399	49	88	24	1	10	36	30	102	5	7	.221	.281	.361	.642
Anderson, Garret	LAA	141	543	63	152	28	2	17	85	38	95	1	0	.280	.323	.433	.756
		1760	7015	891	2081	431	31	241	1128	341	986	70	43	.297	.327	.470	.797
Baldelli, Rocco	TB	92	364	59	110	24	6	16	57	14	70	10	1	.302	.339	.533	.871
		384	1519	227	439	83	17	43	209	74	286	54	15	.289	.329	.451	.780
Barajas, Rod	TEX	97	344	49	88	20	0	11	41	17	51	0	0	.256	.298	.410	.708
		536	1621	196	389	99	1	58	225	85	283	1	1	.240	.282	.410	.692
Bartlett, Jason	MIN	99	333	44	103	18	2	2	32	22	46	10	5	.309	.367	.393	.760
		181	569	79	158	28	3	5	49	44	84	16	5	.278	.342	.364	.706
Belliard, Ronnie	CLE	93	350	43	102	21	0	8	44	21	45	2	0	.291	.337	.420	.757
		1049	3812	528	1036	247	21	80	439	379	576	32	24	.272	.338	.411	.749
Béltre, Adrián	SEA	156	620	88	166	39	4	25	89	47	118	11	5	.268	.328	.465	.792
		1278	4685	613	1269	251	23	191	686	371	816	76	32	.271	.328	.457	.784
Berroa, Ángel	KC	132	474	45	111	18	1	9	54	14	88	3	1	.234	.259	.333	.592
		618	2289	293	605	103	20	45	234	94	403	50	19	.264	.305	.386	.691
Betancourt, Yuniesky	SEA	157	558	68	161	28	6	8	47	17	54	11	8	.289	.310	.403	.713
		217	769	92	215	39	11	9	62	28	78	12	11	.280	.306	.394	.700
Blake, Casey	CLE	109	401	63	113	20	1	19	68	45	93	6	0	.282	.356	.479	.835
		609	2180	320	567	129	5	89	288	205	490	25	22	.260	.330	.446	.777
Blalock, Hank	TEX	152	591	76	157	26	3	16	89	51	98	1	0	.266	.325	.401	.726
		664	2576	368	700	139	9	105	398	241	519	6	5	.272	.335	.455	.790
Bloomquist, Willie	SEA	102	251	36	62	6	2	1	15	24	40	16	3	.247	.320	.299	.619
		378	917	131	236	42	6	4	76	69	167	50	8	.257	.312	.329	.641
Boone, Aaron	CLE	104	354	50	89	19	1	7	46	27	62	5	4	.251	.314	.370	.684
		969	3437	469	907	192	16	115	499	264	612	105	29	.264	.325	.429	.755
Bradley, Milton	OAK	96	351	53	97	14	2	14	52	51	65	10	2	.276	.370	.447	.818
		630	2244	325	606	129	12	68	285	278	463	64	30	.270	.354	.429	.783
Broussard, Ben	CLE-SEA	144	432	61	125	21	0	22	63	26	103	2	1	.289	.331	.484	.815
		580	1814	240	482	104	13	77	277	149	396	13	7	.266	.328	.465	.793
Brown, Emil	KC	147	527	77	151	41	2	15	81	59	95	6	3	.287	.358	.457	.815
		506	1476	204	388	85	9	40	205	145	332	36	10	.263	.336	.414	.750
Buck, John	KC	114	371	37	91	21	1	11	50	26	84	0	2	.245	.306	.396	.702
		303	1010	113	244	51	2	35	127	64	257	3	5	.242	.292	.400	.692
Cabrera, Melky	NYY	130	460	75	129	26	2	7	50	56	59	12	5	.280	.360	.391	.752
		136	479	76	133	26	2	7	50	56	61	12	5	.278	.355	.384	.739
Cabrera, Orlando	LAA	153	607	95	171	45	1	9	72	51	58	27	3	.282	.335	.404	.738
		1256	4663	605	1254	306	27	89	541	333	429	145	35	.269	.317	.403	.721
Canó, Robinson	NYY	122	482	62	165	41	1	15	78	18	54	5	2	.342	.365	.525	.890
		254	1004	140	320	75	5	29	140	34	122	6	5	.319	.342	.490	.832
Cantú, Jorge	TB	107	413	40	103	18	2	14	62	26	91	1	1	.249	.295	.404	.699
		307	1184	138	326	78	4	44	196	54	218	2	1	.275	.310	.459	.769
Castillo, Luis	MIN	142	584	84	173	22	6	3	49	56	58	25	11	.296	.358	.370	.728
		1270	4931	759	1446	152	48	23	320	589	687	306	125	.293	.369	.358	.726
Catalanotto, Frank	TOR	128	437	56	131	36	2	7	56	52	37	1	3	.300	.376	.439	.816
		972	3076	462	915	212	29	70	382	268	398	40	25	.297	.362	.454	.815
Chávez, Eric	OAK	137	485	74	117	24	2	22	72	84	100	3	0	.241	.351	.435	.786
		1166	4212	667	1143	245	18	212	716	516	790	43	15	.271	.350	.489	.839
Cintrón, Álex	CWS	91	288	35	82	10	3	5	41	10	35	10	3	.285	.310	.392	.703
		530	1712	208	480	92	19	30	193	94	173	16	11	.280	.318	.409	.727

Batter	Team	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	K	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Conine, Jeff	BAL	114	389	43	103	20	3	9	49	35	53	3	2	.265	.325	.401	.726
		1923	6701	845	1917	372	35	208	1034	644	1132	50	29	.286	.348	.445	.793
Cora, Álex	BOS	96	235	31	56	7	2	1	18	19	29	6	2	.238	.312	.298	.609
		876	2446	259	596	99	27	31	215	178	320	31	15	.244	.310	.344	.654
Costa, Shane	KC	72	237	23	65	20	1	3	23	6	29	2	0	.274	.304	.405	.709
		99	318	36	84	22	1	5	30	11	40	2	0	.264	.300	.387	.687
Crawford, Carl	TB	151	600	89	183	20	16	18	77	37	85	58	9	.305	.348	.482	.830
		673	2759	397	806	108	65	51	297	134	393	227	47	.292	.326	.434	.760
Crede, Joe	CWS	150	544	76	154	31	0	30	94	28	58	0	2	.283	.323	.506	.828
		654	2266	296	593	120	3	104	345	130	334	4	8	.262	.308	.455	.763
Crisp, Coco	BOS	105	413	58	109	22	2	8	36	31	67	22	4	.264	.317	.385	.702
		520	2039	293	576	112	16	43	212	145	287	76	33	.282	.329	.416	.745
Crosby, Bobby	OAK	96	358	42	82	12	0	9	40	36	76	8	1	.229	.298	.338	.636
		342	1248	179	304	71	5	40	142	130	276	15	4	.244	.318	.405	.723
Cuddyer, Michael	MIN	150	557	102	158	41	5	24	109	62	130	6	0	.284	.362	.504	.867
		475	1550	233	416	98	12	56	218	162	352	18	10	.268	.342	.455	.797
Damon, Johnny	NYY	149	593	115	169	35	5	24	80	67	85	25	10	.285	.359	.482	.841
		1704	6770	1188	1958	361	85	154	780	665	789	306	85	.289	.353	.436	.789
DeJesús, David	KC	119	491	83	145	36	7	8	56	43	70	6	3	.295	.364	.446	.810
		349	1322	210	386	82	17	24	151	119	201	19	19	.292	.362	.434	.796
DeRosa, Mark	TEX	136	520	78	154	40	2	13	74	44	102	4	4	.296	.357	.456	.812
		595	1643	239	449	93	4	38	193	125	286	11	11	.273	.331	.404	.735
Dye, Jermaine	CWS	146	539	103	170	27	3	44	120	59	118	7	3	.315	.385	.622	1.006
		1330	4886	742	1352	269	22	236	817	444	989	41	21	.277	.339	.486	.825
Ellis, Mark	OAK	124	441	64	110	25	1	11	52	40	76	4	0	.249	.319	.385	.704
		498	1773	276	478	93	15	39	191	176	275	15	7	.270	.341	.405	.746
Everett, Carl	SEA	92	308	37	70	8	0	11	33	29	57	1	3	.227	.297	.360	.658
		1405	4809	707	1304	258	26	202	792	442	1021	107	54	.271	.341	.462	.802
Fahey, Brandon	BAL	91	251	36	59	8	2	2	23	23	48	3	3	.235	.307	.307	.614
		91	251	36	59	8	2	2	23	23	48	3	3	.235	.307	.307	.614
Figgins, Chone	LAA	155	604	93	161	23	8	9	62	65	100	52	16	.267	.336	.376	.712
		547	2075	329	591	80	39	22	207	198	338	163	54	.285	.345	.393	.738
Ford, Lew	MIN	104	234	40	53	6	1	4	18	16	43	9	1	.227	.287	.312	.599
		439	1398	215	385	74	10	29	158	136	212	44	9	.275	.351	.405	.756
Gathright, Joey	TB-KC	134	383	59	91	12	3	1	41	42	75	22	9	.238	.321	.292	.613
		229	638	99	160	19	6	1	55	54	128	48	15	.251	.319	.304	.623
Germán, Esteban	KC	106	279	44	91	18	5	3	34	40	49	7	3	.326	.422	.459	.880
		156	382	60	117	20	6	3	43	48	75	10	4	.306	.394	.414	.807
Giambi, Jason	NYY	139	446	92	113	25	0	37	113	110	106	2	0	.253	.413	.558	.971
		1622	5620	1017	1639	335	8	350	1144	1089	1131	15	10	.292	.413	.541	.954
Gibbons, Jay	BAL	90	343	34	95	23	0	13	46	32	48	0	0	.277	.341	.458	.799
		695	2517	320	662	148	7	115	377	200	362	2	6	.263	.319	.464	.783
Glaus, Troy	TOR	153	540	105	136	27	0	38	104	86	134	3	2	.252	.355	.513	.868
		1129	4040	706	1023	221	8	257	716	640	1063	56	27	.253	.357	.503	.860
Gomes, Jonny	TB	117	385	53	83	21	1	20	59	61	116	1	5	.216	.325	.431	.757
		231	762	115	184	35	7	41	114	101	241	10	10	.241	.341	.467	.808
González, Álex	BOS	111	388	48	99	24	2	9	50	22	67	1	0	.255	.299	.397	.695
		1007	3609	411	887	207	25	90	425	192	739	24	17	.246	.292	.392	.684
Granderson, Curtis	DET	159	596	90	155	31	9	19	68	66	174	8	5	.260	.335	.438	.773
		215	783	110	205	38	13	27	88	79	225	9	6	.262	.330	.447	.777
Grudzielanek, Mark	KC	134	548	85	163	32	4	7	52	28	69	3	2	.297	.331	.409	.740
		1570	6158	830	1774	335	33	81	554	314	843	128	49	.288	.330	.393	.723
Guerrero, Vladimir	LAA	156	607	92	200	34	1	33	116	50	68	15	5	.329	.382	.552	.934
		1457	5502	952	1786	328	39	338	1052	544	674	166	80	.325	.390	.583	.972
Guillén, Carlos	DET	153	543	100	174	41	5	19	85	71	87	20	9	.320	.400	.519	.920
		864	3064	509	886	173	35	73	416	330	531	49	30	.289	.358	.440	.798
Hafner, Travis	CLE	129	454	100	140	31	1	42	117	100	111	0	0	.308	.439	.659	1.097
		520	1775	331	527	137	8	118	380	277	441	5	4	.297	.402	.583	.984
Hernández, Ramón	BAL	144	501	66	138	29	2	23	91	43	79	1	0	.275	.343	.479	.822
		949	3148	388	831	166	5	113	475	265	450	6	1	.264	.328	.428	.755
Hill, Aaron	TOR	155	546	70	159	28	3	6	50	42	66	5	2	.291	.349	.386	.735
		260	907	119	258	53	6	9	90	76	107	7	3	.284	.346	.386	.732
Hillenbrand, Shea	TOR	81	296	40	89	15	1	12	39	14	40	1	2	.301	.342	.480	.821
		870	3303	438	947	197	13	104	459	133	434	16	9	.287	.325	.449	.773
Hinske, Eric	TOR-BOS	109	277	43	75	17	2	13	34	35	79	2	2	.271	.353	.487	.840
		686	2339	361	607	154	12	79	318	271	551	47	17	.260	.337	.437	.774
Hollins, Damon	TB	121	333	37	76	20	0	15	33	19	64	3	3	.228	.269	.423	.693
		256	712	85	172	39	1	28	86	42	134	11	5	.242	.284	.417	.701
Huff, Aubrey	TB	63	230	26	65	15	1	8	28	24	25	0	0	.283	.348	.461	.809
		867	3252	431	926	182	10	141	487	273	451	20	15	.285	.342	.477	.819
Hunter, Torii	MIN	147	557	86	155	21	2	31	98	45	108	12	6	.278	.336	.490	.826
		1074	3892	578	1046	214	25	164	604	279	769	108	51	.269	.323	.463	.786
Ibañez, Raúl	SEA	159	626	103	181	33	5	33	123	65	115	2	4	.289	.353	.516	.869
		1073	3583	530	1017	199	26	138	579	329	580	32	20	.284	.344	.469	.813
Iguchi, Tadahito	CWS	138	555	97	156	24	0	18	67	59	110	11	5	.281	.352	.422	.774
		273	1066	171	298	49	6	33	138	106	224	26	10	.280	.347	.430	.777
Inge, Brandon	DET	159	542	83	137	29	2	27	83	43	128	7	4	.253	.313	.463	.776
		728	2406	273	581	116	24	71	288	195	561	25	25	.241	.302	.398	.700
Izturis, Maicer	LAA	104	352	64	103	21	3	5	44	38	35	14	6	.293	.365	.412	.777
		213	650	92	172	34	9	7	63	65	76	27	9	.265	.335	.377	.712
Jeter, Derek	NYY	154	623	118	214	39	3	14	97	69	102	34	5	.344	.417	.483	.900
		1679	6790	1277	2150	347	50	183	860	705	1191	249	62	.317	.388	.463	.852
Johjima, Kenji	SEA	144	506	61	147	25	1	18	76	20	46	3	1	.291	.332	.451	.783
		144	506	61	147	25	1	18	76	20	46	3	1	.291	.332	.451	.783

American League BATTING

Batter	Team	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	K	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Johnson, Dan	OAK	91	286	30	67	13	1	9	37	40	45	0	0	.234	.323	.381	.704
		200	661	84	170	34	1	24	95	90	97	0	1	.257	.341	.421	.762
Johnson, Reed	TOR	134	461	86	147	34	2	12	49	33	81	8	2	.319	.390	.479	.869
		531	1808	288	520	101	12	40	220	103	328	24	14	.288	.348	.423	.771
Kendall, Jason	OAK	143	552	76	163	23	0	1	50	53	54	11	5	.295	.367	.342	.709
		1545	5759	852	1735	307	30	68	574	557	496	159	73	.301	.381	.400	.781
Kendrick, Howie	LAA	72	267	25	76	21	1	4	30	9	44	6	0	.285	.314	.416	.730
		72	267	25	76	21	1	4	30	9	44	6	0	.285	.314	.416	.730
Kennedy, Adam	LAA	139	451	50	123	26	6	4	55	39	72	16	10	.273	.334	.384	.718
		1025	3436	447	961	186	33	52	369	231	533	123	48	.280	.332	.398	.731
Kielty, Bobby	OAK	81	270	35	73	20	1	8	36	22	49	2	0	.270	.329	.441	.770
		566	1705	247	437	102	6	52	241	238	346	21	6	.256	.351	.415	.766
Kinsler, Ian	TEX	120	423	65	121	27	1	14	55	40	64	11	4	.286	.347	.454	.801
		120	423	65	121	27	1	14	55	40	64	11	4	.286	.347	.454	.801
Konerko, Paul	CWS	152	566	97	177	30	0	35	113	60	104	1	0	.313	.381	.551	.932
		1275	4561	677	1292	226	5	245	805	460	713	5	1	.283	.353	.496	.849
Kotsay, Mark	OAK	129	502	57	138	29	3	7	59	44	55	6	3	.275	.332	.386	.719
		1284	4811	644	1369	265	41	102	540	411	569	88	50	.285	.340	.420	.760
Laird, Gerald	TEX	78	243	46	72	20	1	7	22	12	54	3	1	.296	.332	.473	.805
		159	474	82	126	30	2	10	46	31	107	3	2	.266	.315	.401	.715
Lee, Carlos	TEX	59	236	42	76	19	1	9	35	20	26	7	0	.322	.369	.525	.895
		1203	4570	720	1308	270	11	221	782	370	653	96	32	.286	.340	.495	.835
Lee, Travis	TB	114	343	35	77	11	2	11	31	42	73	5	2	.224	.312	.364	.676
		1099	3740	476	958	191	16	115	488	457	704	59	20	.256	.337	.408	.745
López, Javy	BAL-BOS	94	342	36	86	20	1	8	35	20	76	0	0	.251	.297	.386	.683
		1503	5319	674	1527	267	19	260	864	357	969	8	19	.287	.337	.491	.828
López, José	SEA	151	603	78	170	28	8	10	79	26	80	5	2	.282	.319	.405	.723
		262	1000	124	265	60	8	17	126	40	136	9	5	.265	.300	.392	.692
Loretta, Mark	BOS	155	635	75	181	33	0	5	59	49	63	4	1	.285	.345	.361	.706
		1385	4910	670	1466	263	20	68	525	462	513	45	32	.299	.363	.402	.765
Lowell, Mike	BOS	153	573	79	163	47	1	20	80	47	61	2	2	.284	.339	.475	.814
		1142	4142	557	1132	288	4	163	658	401	590	23	9	.273	.339	.463	.802
Lugo, Julio	TB	73	289	53	89	17	1	12	27	27	47	18	4	.308	.373	.498	.871
		920	3385	521	936	172	25	68	336	309	637	139	52	.277	.340	.402	.742
Mackowiak, Rob	CWS	112	255	31	74	12	1	5	23	28	59	5	2	.290	.365	.404	.769
		705	1982	260	519	96	16	57	244	193	498	45	16	.262	.333	.413	.746
Markakis, Nick	BAL	147	491	72	143	25	2	16	62	43	72	2	0	.291	.351	.448	.799
		147	491	72	143	25	2	16	62	43	72	2	0	.291	.351	.448	.799
Martínez, Víctor	CLE	153	572	82	181	37	0	16	93	71	78	0	0	.316	.391	.465	.856
		502	1830	249	550	113	1	61	302	210	248	1	3	.301	.373	.463	.836
Matthews Jr., Gary	TEX	147	620	102	194	44	6	19	79	58	99	10	7	.313	.371	.495	.866
		875	2787	427	733	158	21	78	315	308	554	64	28	.263	.336	.419	.755
Mauer, Joe	MIN	140	521	86	181	36	4	13	84	79	54	8	3	.347	.429	.507	.936
		306	1117	165	358	70	7	28	156	151	132	22	4	.321	.399	.471	.870
McDonald, John	TOR	104	260	35	58	7	3	3	23	16	41	7	2	.223	.271	.308	.579
		457	1049	129	248	39	9	7	72	53	168	19	7	.236	.279	.311	.590
Mench, Kevin	TEX	87	320	36	91	18	1	12	50	23	42	1	0	.284	.338	.459	.797
		550	1932	252	524	119	10	81	283	151	290	7	5	.271	.330	.469	.799
Michaels, Jason	CLE	123	494	77	132	32	1	9	55	43	101	9	5	.267	.326	.391	.717
		506	1302	211	367	81	6	30	155	157	283	15	11	.282	.360	.422	.783
Mientkiewicz, Doug	KC	91	314	37	89	24	2	4	43	35	50	3	0	.283	.359	.411	.770
		870	2843	359	768	189	9	59	348	377	415	14	15	.270	.359	.405	.764
Millar, Kevin	BAL	132	430	64	117	26	0	15	64	59	74	1	1	.272	.374	.437	.811
		1064	3430	483	983	231	14	126	535	386	602	6	7	.287	.366	.472	.838
Molina, Bengie	TOR	117	433	44	123	20	1	19	57	19	47	1	1	.284	.319	.467	.785
		833	2917	294	801	128	3	84	419	137	278	3	7	.275	.310	.407	.717
Molina, José	LAA	78	225	18	54	17	0	4	22	9	49	1	0	.240	.273	.369	.642
		333	852	86	204	42	2	15	88	43	195	7	3	.239	.280	.346	.626
Monroe, Craig	DET	147	541	89	138	35	2	28	92	37	126	2	2	.255	.301	.482	.783
		600	2057	285	542	112	9	92	329	139	412	19	13	.263	.310	.461	.770
Mora, Melvin	BAL	155	624	96	171	25	0	16	83	54	99	11	1	.274	.342	.391	.733
		1015	3549	562	993	193	11	119	483	369	663	76	40	.280	.359	.441	.800
Morneau, Justin	MIN	157	592	97	190	37	1	34	130	53	93	3	3	.321	.375	.559	.934
		412	1468	212	407	81	5	79	283	134	271	3	5	.277	.338	.501	.839
Napoli, Mike	LAA	99	268	47	61	13	0	16	42	51	90	2	3	.228	.360	.455	.815
		99	268	47	61	13	0	16	42	51	90	2	3	.228	.360	.455	.815
Nixon, Trot	BOS	114	381	59	102	24	0	8	52	60	56	0	2	.268	.373	.394	.767
		982	3285	547	912	204	28	133	523	454	621	29	13	.278	.366	.478	.845
Norton, Greg	TB	98	294	47	87	15	0	17	45	35	69	1	5	.296	.374	.520	.895
		820	1945	258	491	103	8	78	273	233	485	14	17	.252	.333	.434	.767
Ordóñez, Magglio	DET	155	593	82	177	32	1	24	104	45	87	1	4	.298	.350	.477	.827
		1238	4705	744	1436	289	16	219	853	408	553	83	42	.305	.362	.513	.875
Ortiz, David	BOS	151	558	115	160	29	2	54	137	119	117	1	0	.287	.413	.636	1.049
		1043	3666	622	1037	263	11	231	763	540	796	6	2	.283	.374	.550	.924
Overbay, Lyle	TOR	157	581	82	181	46	1	22	92	55	96	5	3	.312	.372	.508	.880
		572	1963	268	575	153	3	61	280	249	395	9	4	.293	.372	.467	.840
Patterson, Corey	BAL	135	463	75	128	19	5	16	53	21	94	45	9	.276	.314	.443	.757
		724	2639	368	677	118	26	86	284	132	646	131	32	.257	.297	.419	.715
Payton, Jay	OAK	142	557	78	165	32	3	10	59	22	52	8	4	.296	.325	.418	.743
		981	3347	469	952	158	22	105	422	210	404	33	29	.284	.330	.439	.768
Peña, Wily Mo	BOS	84	276	36	83	15	2	11	42	20	90	0	1	.301	.349	.489	.838
		386	1106	144	289	48	4	62	176	74	378	10	6	.261	.315	.480	.795

Batter	Team	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	K	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Peralta, Jhonny	CLE	149	569	84	146	28	3	13	68	56	152	0	1	.257	.323	.385	.708
		375	1340	192	354	74	8	41	169	137	351	1	7	.264	.334	.423	.757
Pérez, Tomás	TB	99	241	31	51	12	0	2	16	5	44	1	0	.212	.224	.286	.510
		781	1886	205	453	96	13	24	180	131	339	6	7	.240	.291	.343	.634
Phillips, Andy	NYY	110	246	30	59	11	3	7	29	15	56	3	2	.240	.281	.394	.676
		142	294	38	67	15	3	9	35	16	70	3	2	.228	.266	.391	.657
Pierzynski, A.J.	CWS	140	509	65	150	24	0	16	64	22	72	1	0	.295	.333	.436	.769
		829	2868	355	826	179	14	71	390	124	360	7	13	.288	.331	.434	.765
Podsednik, Scott	CWS	139	524	86	137	27	6	3	45	54	96	40	19	.261	.330	.353	.684
		595	2255	354	620	111	23	25	175	219	374	212	65	.275	.342	.378	.719
Polanco, Plácido	DET	110	461	58	136	18	1	4	52	17	27	1	2	.295	.329	.364	.693
		1029	3726	549	1117	178	20	63	382	206	272	50	24	.300	.344	.409	.753
Posada, Jorge	NYY	143	465	65	129	27	2	23	93	64	97	3	0	.277	.374	.492	.867
		1288	4308	653	1163	262	7	198	771	692	1041	14	18	.270	.375	.472	.847
Punto, Nick	MIN	135	459	73	133	21	7	1	45	47	68	17	5	.290	.352	.373	.725
		362	1047	149	273	41	11	8	87	102	198	38	14	.261	.324	.344	.668
Quinlan, Robb	LAA	86	234	28	75	11	1	9	32	7	28	2	1	.321	.344	.491	.836
		234	622	81	188	37	3	19	73	34	96	6	5	.302	.342	.463	.805
Ramírez, Manny	BOS	130	449	79	144	27	1	35	102	100	102	0	1	.321	.439	.619	1.058
		1817	6575	1258	2066	438	16	470	1516	1054	1451	34	31	.314	.411	.600	1.011
Ríos, Álex	TOR	128	450	68	136	33	6	17	82	35	89	15	6	.302	.349	.516	.865
		385	1357	194	384	80	19	28	169	94	274	44	18	.283	.331	.432	.762
Rivera, Juan	LAA	124	448	65	139	27	0	23	85	33	59	0	4	.310	.362	.525	.887
		452	1449	190	422	87	2	58	225	106	185	8	16	.291	.341	.474	.815
Roberts, Brian	BAL	138	563	85	161	34	3	10	55	55	66	36	7	.286	.347	.410	.757
		665	2626	409	734	169	19	40	250	267	359	136	40	.280	.345	.404	.749
Rodríguez, Álex	NYY	154	572	113	166	26	1	35	121	90	139	15	4	.290	.392	.523	.914
		1746	6767	1358	2067	364	26	464	1347	820	1404	241	60	.305	.386	.573	.958
Rodríguez, Iván	DET	136	547	74	164	28	4	13	69	26	86	8	3	.300	.332	.437	.769
		2023	7745	1159	2354	473	42	277	1119	437	1125	112	56	.304	.342	.483	.826
Sanders, Reggie	KC	88	325	45	80	23	1	11	49	28	86	7	7	.246	.304	.425	.729
		1753	6168	1025	1643	334	60	303	972	663	1599	304	114	.266	.342	.487	.830
Scutaro, Marco	OAK	117	365	52	97	21	6	5	41	50	66	5	1	.266	.350	.397	.747
		447	1312	162	339	79	11	24	133	115	197	12	4	.258	.316	.390	.707
Sexson, Richie	SEA	158	591	75	156	40	0	34	107	64	154	1	1	.264	.338	.504	.842
		1150	4214	661	1135	230	17	273	844	494	1127	12	13	.269	.350	.526	.877
Sheffield, Gary	NYY	39	151	22	45	5	0	6	25	13	16	5	1	.298	.355	.450	.806
		2229	8037	1433	2390	418	24	455	1501	1293	971	220	96	.297	.398	.525	.923
Shelton, Chris	DET	115	373	50	102	16	4	16	47	34	107	1	2	.273	.340	.466	.806
		249	807	117	227	39	7	35	109	77	208	1	2	.281	.348	.477	.825
Sizemore, Grady	CLE	162	655	134	190	53	11	28	76	78	153	22	6	.290	.375	.533	.907
		363	1433	260	409	96	24	54	181	144	319	46	16	.285	.359	.499	.858
Stairs, Matt	KC-DET-TEX	117	348	42	86	21	0	13	51	40	86	0	0	.247	.328	.420	.748
		1416	4243	633	1125	243	11	220	751	588	881	25	22	.265	.358	.483	.841
Suzuki, Ichiro	SEA	161	695	110	224	20	9	9	49	49	71	45	2	.322	.370	.416	.786
		957	4096	671	1354	155	50	61	359	280	384	235	58	.331	.376	.438	.814
Swisher, Nick	OAK	157	556	106	141	24	2	35	95	97	152	1	2	.254	.372	.493	.864
		308	1078	183	265	60	3	58	177	160	273	1	3	.246	.350	.468	.818
Teahen, Mark	KC	109	393	70	114	21	7	18	69	40	85	10	0	.290	.357	.517	.874
		239	840	130	224	50	11	25	124	80	192	17	2	.267	.332	.442	.773
Teixeira, Mark	TEX	162	628	99	177	45	1	33	110	89	128	2	0	.282	.371	.514	.886
		615	2346	378	661	149	11	140	450	273	489	11	3	.282	.364	.534	.898
Tejada, Miguel	BAL	162	648	99	214	37	0	24	100	46	79	6	2	.330	.379	.498	.878
		1422	5539	869	1584	318	18	240	952	421	777	64	24	.286	.342	.480	.822
Thames, Marcus	DET	110	348	61	89	20	2	26	60	37	92	1	1	.256	.333	.549	.882
		246	706	110	170	37	2	45	115	70	194	1	3	.241	.316	.490	.806
Thomas, Frank	OAK	137	466	77	126	11	0	39	114	81	81	0	0	.270	.381	.545	.926
		2096	7422	1404	2262	458	11	487	1579	1547	1246	32	23	.305	.424	.566	.990
Thome, Jim	CWS	143	490	108	141	26	0	42	109	107	147	0	0	.288	.416	.598	1.014
		1881	6409	1259	1806	350	24	472	1302	1364	1909	18	19	.282	.409	.565	.974
Uribe, Juan	CWS	132	463	53	109	28	2	21	71	13	82	1	1	.235	.257	.441	.698
		726	2601	339	670	141	32	84	351	138	490	33	22	.258	.297	.433	.730
Varitek, Jason	BOS	103	365	46	87	19	2	12	55	46	87	1	2	.238	.325	.400	.725
		1068	3543	479	952	231	10	131	543	406	780	24	15	.269	.348	.450	.798
Wells, Vernon	TOR	154	611	91	185	40	5	32	106	54	90	17	4	.303	.357	.542	.899
		821	3239	478	933	200	19	141	501	230	457	53	15	.288	.336	.492	.828
White, Rondell	MIN	99	337	32	83	17	1	7	38	11	54	1	1	.246	.276	.365	.641
		1436	5248	748	1500	292	34	194	748	354	906	94	47	.286	.339	.465	.804
Wigginton, Ty	TB	122	444	55	122	25	1	24	79	32	97	4	3	.275	.330	.498	.828
		525	1782	229	472	108	10	65	259	145	352	25	8	.265	.325	.446	.771
Wilkerson, Brad	TEX	95	320	56	71	15	2	15	44	37	116	3	2	.222	.306	.422	.728
		749	2585	425	651	164	25	98	309	414	772	46	37	.252	.358	.448	.806
Williams, Bernie	NYY	131	420	65	118	29	0	12	61	33	53	2	0	.281	.332	.436	.768
		2076	7869	1366	2336	449	55	287	1257	1069	1212	147	87	.297	.381	.477	.858
Youkilis, Kevin	BOS	147	569	100	159	42	2	13	72	91	120	5	2	.279	.381	.429	.810
		263	856	149	235	60	2	21	116	138	184	5	4	.275	.379	.423	.802
Young, Michael	TEX	162	691	93	217	52	3	14	103	48	96	7	3	.314	.356	.459	.814
		905	3676	561	1104	202	38	94	476	253	583	46	18	.300	.344	.453	.797
Zaun, Gregg	TOR	99	290	39	79	19	0	12	40	41	42	0	2	.272	.363	.462	.825
		918	2549	320	645	134	8	62	323	348	391	21	16	.253	.345	.385	.729
Zobrist, Ben	TB	52	183	10	41	6	2	2	18	10	26	2	3	.224	.260	.311	.572
		52	183	10	41	6	2	2	18	10	26	2	3	.224	.260	.311	.572

American League

PITCHING

CLUB PITCHING

CLUB	W	L	ERA	G	CG	SHO	REL	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	SO	WP	BK	OPP AVG
DETROIT	95	67	3.84	162	3	16	390	46	1448.0	1420	675	618	160	53	489	35	1003	44	2	.257
MINNESOTA	96	66	3.95	162	1	6	421	40	1439.1	1490	683	632	182	36	356	25	1164	40	3	.267
LOS ANGELES	89	73	4.04	162	5	12	380	50	1452.2	1410	732	652	158	50	471	27	1164	85	3	.254
OAKLAND	93	69	4.21	162	5	11	444	54	1451.2	1525	727	679	162	55	529	47	1003	44	4	.272
TORONTO	87	75	4.37	162	6	6	482	42	1428.1	1447	754	694	185	59	504	56	1076	53	13	.262
CLEVELAND	78	84	4.41	162	13	13	377	24	1423.1	1583	782	698	166	51	429	35	948	46	2	.282
NEW YORK	97	65	4.41	162	5	8	489	43	1443.2	1463	767	708	170	59	496	41	1019	46	7	.262
TEXAS	80	82	4.60	162	3	8	489	42	1431.1	1558	784	731	162	66	496	18	972	34	4	.278
SEATTLE	78	84	4.60	162	6	6	429	47	1446.2	1500	792	739	183	53	560	50	1067	47	6	.267
CHICAGO	90	72	4.61	162	5	11	398	46	1449.0	1534	794	743	200	58	433	59	1012	51	1	.271
BOSTON	86	76	4.83	162	3	6	454	46	1441.1	1570	825	773	181	68	509	25	1070	52	3	.279
TAMPA BAY	61	101	4.96	162	3	7	444	33	1420.1	1600	856	782	180	63	606	39	979	70	8	.286
BALTIMORE	70	92	5.35	162	5	9	472	35	1419.0	1579	899	843	216	48	613	26	1016	59	4	.284
KANSAS CITY	62	100	5.65	162	3	5	473	35	1426.1	1648	971	896	213	60	637	45	904	85	9	.292

Individual Pitching — 2006 Season and Career Stats (min. 51 IP in AL, NL totals not included in 2006 season totals)

Pitcher	Team	G	GS	W	L	SV	CG	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	K	ERA	WHIP	BAA
Affeldt, Jeremy	KC	27	9	4	6	0	0	0	70.0	71	51	46	9	42	28	5.91	1.61	.262
		211	42	21	24	18	0	0	427.0	460	257	233	42	191	301	4.91	1.52	.274
Baker, Scott	MIN	16	16	5	8	0	0	0	83.1	114	63	59	17	16	62	6.37	1.56	.324
		26	25	8	11	0	0	0	137.0	162	84	79	22	30	94	5.19	1.40	.294
Bauer, Rick	TEX	58	1	3	1	2	0	0	71.0	73	31	28	4	25	35	3.55	1.38	.272
		183	10	11	14	3	0	0	311.0	312	170	150	34	118	181	4.34	1.38	.264
Beckett, Josh	BOS	33	33	16	11	0	0	0	204.2	191	120	114	36	74	158	5.01	1.29	.245
		139	136	57	45	0	3	2	813.2	720	386	348	91	297	765	3.85	1.25	.237
Bedard, Erik	BAL	33	33	15	11	0	0	0	196.1	196	92	82	16	69	171	3.76	1.35	.258
		86	83	27	29	0	0	0	476.0	486	242	216	39	197	418	4.08	1.43	.263
Benoit, Joaquín	TEX	56	0	1	1	0	0	0	79.2	68	49	43	5	38	85	4.86	1.33	.224
		159	55	20	20	1	0	0	464.1	448	279	264	65	219	408	5.12	1.44	.250
Benson, Kris	BAL	30	30	11	12	0	3	0	183.0	199	105	98	33	58	88	4.82	1.40	.287
		195	195	68	73	0	8	2	1207.1	1241	649	582	144	423	787	4.34	1.38	.267
Betancourt, Rafael	CLE	50	0	3	4	3	0	0	56.2	52	25	24	7	11	48	3.81	1.11	.241
		205	0	14	15	9	0	0	229.0	207	91	83	24	59	233	3.26	1.16	.237
Blanton, Joe	OAK	32	31	16	12	0	1	1	194.1	241	111	104	17	58	107	4.82	1.54	.309
		68	64	28	24	0	3	1	403.2	425	202	188	41	127	229	4.19	1.37	.272
Bonderman, Jeremy	DET	34	34	14	8	0	0	0	214.0	214	104	97	18	64	202	4.08	1.30	.259
		129	123	45	53	0	6	2	749.0	774	424	393	86	252	623	4.72	1.37	.266
Bonser, Boof	MIN	18	18	7	6	0	0	0	100.1	104	50	47	18	24	84	4.22	1.28	.267
		18	18	7	6	0	0	0	100.1	104	50	47	18	24	84	4.22	1.28	.267
Britton, Chris	BAL	52	0	0	2	1	0	0	53.2	46	22	20	4	17	41	3.35	1.17	.228
		52	0	0	2	1	0	0	53.2	46	22	20	4	17	41	3.35	1.17	.228
Buehrle, Mark	CWS	32	32	12	13	0	1	0	204.0	247	124	113	36	48	98	4.99	1.45	.305
		229	204	97	66	0	19	6	1428.0	1473	684	607	165	328	828	3.83	1.26	.268
Burgos, Ambiorix	KC	68	1	4	5	18	0	0	73.1	83	49	45	16	37	72	5.52	1.64	.288
		127	1	7	10	20	0	0	136.2	143	78	73	22	68	137	4.81	1.54	.271
Burnett, A.J.	TOR	21	21	10	8	0	2	1	135.2	138	67	60	14	39	118	3.98	1.30	.264
		155	152	59	58	0	16	9	989.1	857	462	414	80	416	871	3.77	1.29	.235
Byrd, Paul	CLE	31	31	10	9	0	1	0	179.0	232	120	97	26	38	88	4.88	1.51	.308
		277	189	82	73	0	14	4	1290.2	1367	704	619	185	328	742	4.32	1.31	.270
Cabrera, Daniel	BAL	26	26	9	10	0	2	1	148.0	130	82	78	11	104	157	4.74	1.58	.241
		83	82	31	31	1	3	2	457.0	419	259	241	39	280	390	4.75	1.53	.245
Cabrera, Fernando	CLE	51	0	3	3	0	0	0	60.2	53	36	35	12	32	71	5.19	1.40	.243
		70	0	5	4	0	0	0	96.2	80	46	42	13	44	106	3.91	1.28	.229
Calero, Kiko	OAK	70	0	3	2	2	0	0	58.0	50	22	22	4	24	67	3.41	1.28	.231
		195	1	11	5	6	0	0	197.1	151	68	68	20	72	217	3.10	1.13	.211
Camp, Shawn	TB	75	0	7	4	4	0	0	75.0	93	43	39	9	19	53	4.68	1.49	.313
		146	0	10	10	6	0	0	190.2	236	120	103	23	48	132	4.86	1.49	.309
Carmona, Fausto	CLE	38	7	1	10	0	0	0	74.2	88	46	45	9	31	58	5.42	1.59	.298
		38	7	1	10	0	0	0	74.2	88	46	45	9	31	58	5.42	1.59	.298
Carrasco, Héctor	LAA	56	3	7	3	1	0	0	100.1	93	42	38	10	27	72	3.41	1.20	.244
		618	9	42	49	19	0	0	794.0	748	377	342	61	364	629	3.88	1.40	.250
Chacín, Gustavo	TOR	17	17	9	4	0	0	0	87.1	90	51	49	19	38	47	5.05	1.47	.266
		53	53	23	14	0	0	0	304.1	311	148	137	39	111	174	4.05	1.39	.268
Chacón, Shawn	NYY	17	11	5	3	0	0	0	63.0	77	54	49	11	36	35	7.00	1.79	.300
		190	115	38	54	35	0	0	740.1	733	450	421	112	386	487	5.12	1.51	.260
Chen, Bruce	BAL	40	12	0	7	0	0	0	98.2	137	81	76	28	35	70	6.93	1.74	.334
		237	112	35	37	0	2	0	797.0	797	448	407	151	308	635	4.60	1.39	.260
Clement, Matt	BOS	12	12	5	5	0	0	0	65.1	77	50	48	8	38	43	6.61	1.76	.291
		238	236	87	86	0	6	3	1412.2	1326	762	702	144	650	1217	4.47	1.40	.248

Pitcher	Team	G	GS	W	L	SV	CG	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	K	ERA	WHIP	BAA
Colón, Bartolo	LAA	10	10	1	5	0	1	1	56.1	71	39	32	11	11	31	5.11	1.46	.306
		290	288	140	87	0	31	8	1876.0	1823	892	829	223	650	1466	3.98	1.32	.256
Contreras, José	CWS	30	30	13	9	0	1	1	196.0	194	101	93	20	55	134	4.27	1.27	.256
		111	102	48	27	0	2	1	642.0	589	333	305	78	244	510	4.28	1.30	.242
Corcoran, Tim	TB	21	16	5	9	0	0	0	90.1	92	48	44	10	48	59	4.38	1.55	.271
		31	17	5	9	0	0	0	113.0	111	63	59	11	60	72	4.70	1.51	.262
Cotts, Neal	CWS	70	0	1	2	1	0	0	54.0	64	33	31	12	24	43	5.17	1.63	.291
		199	5	10	7	1	0	0	193.0	178	105	97	27	100	169	4.52	1.44	.244
Crain, Jesse	MIN	68	0	4	5	1	0	0	76.2	79	31	30	6	18	60	3.52	1.27	.262
		165	0	19	10	2	0	0	183.1	157	65	60	14	59	99	2.95	1.18	.232
Davis, Jason	CLE	39	0	3	2	1	0	0	55.1	67	28	23	1	14	37	3.74	1.46	.302
		106	52	18	22	1	1	0	390.0	443	235	203	44	136	237	4.68	1.48	.288
Delcarmen, Manny	BOS	50	0	2	0	0	0	0	53.1	68	32	30	2	17	45	5.06	1.59	.309
		60	0	2	0	0	0	0	62.1	76	35	33	2	24	54	4.76	1.60	.300
Dessens, Elmer	KC	43	0	5	7	2	0	0	54.0	63	31	27	4	13	36	4.50	1.41	.292
		339	135	46	59	5	2	1	1056.2	1180	560	518	129	306	639	4.41	1.41	.284
Donnelly, Brendan	LAA	62	0	6	0	0	0	0	64.0	58	32	28	8	28	53	3.94	1.34	.240
		276	0	23	8	4	0	0	295.0	239	103	94	26	105	295	2.87	1.17	.219
Downs, Scott	TOR	59	5	6	2	1	0	0	77.0	73	38	35	9	30	61	4.09	1.34	.249
		117	50	17	15	1	1	1	334.0	372	201	178	45	130	241	4.80	1.50	.282
Duchscherer, Justin	OAK	53	0	2	1	9	0	0	55.2	52	18	18	4	9	51	2.91	1.10	.244
		180	5	18	13	14	0	0	268.2	245	107	100	30	67	221	3.35	1.16	.243
Eaton, Adam	TEX	13	13	7	4	0	0	0	65.0	78	38	37	11	24	43	5.12	1.57	.299
		146	144	54	45	0	3	0	861.0	865	456	421	112	306	666	4.40	1.36	.260
Elarton, Scott	KC	20	20	4	9	0	0	0	114.2	117	73	68	26	52	49	5.34	1.47	.267
		215	161	54	56	3	4	1	1013.0	1038	624	577	180	388	670	5.13	1.41	.264
Escobar, Kelvim	LAA	30	30	11	14	0	1	0	189.1	192	93	76	17	50	147	3.61	1.28	.264
		380	171	83	83	59	7	3	1306.1	1275	674	619	126	541	1145	4.26	1.39	.255
Eyre, Willie	MIN	42	0	1	0	0	0	0	59.1	75	36	35	8	22	26	5.31	1.63	.309
		42	0	1	0	0	0	0	59.1	75	36	35	8	22	26	5.31	1.63	.309
Farnsworth, Kyle	NYY	72	0	3	6	6	0	0	66.0	62	34	32	8	28	75	4.36	1.36	.243
		487	26	26	44	26	1	1	614.2	574	333	303	88	279	629	4.44	1.39	.245
Fossum, Casey	TB	25	25	6	6	0	0	0	130.0	136	89	77	18	63	88	5.33	1.53	.265
		163	110	32	44	2	0	0	664.2	716	437	384	95	270	523	5.20	1.48	.274
García, Freddy	CWS	33	33	17	9	0	1	0	216.1	228	116	109	32	48	135	4.53	1.28	.267
		252	251	116	71	0	12	4	1643.2	1584	775	732	191	529	1202	4.01	1.29	.252
Garland, Jon	CWS	33	32	18	7	0	1	1	211.1	247	112	106	26	41	112	4.51	1.36	.294
		214	191	82	68	1	6	5	1220.1	1263	656	602	163	416	663	4.44	1.38	.270
Gaudin, Chad	OAK	55	0	4	2	2	0	0	64.0	51	24	22	3	42	36	3.09	1.45	.222
		101	10	8	7	2	0	0	159.2	178	88	80	17	80	101	4.51	1.62	.285
Gobble, Jimmy	KC	60	6	4	6	2	0	0	84.0	95	51	48	12	29	80	5.14	1.48	.282
		122	43	18	20	2	1	0	338.1	372	211	197	53	117	198	5.24	1.45	.278
Gregg, Kevin	LAA	32	3	3	4	0	0	0	78.1	88	41	36	10	21	71	4.14	1.39	.280
		125	8	11	8	1	0	0	255.0	262	130	122	27	86	221	4.31	1.36	.263
Grilli, Jason	DET	51	0	2	3	0	0	0	62.0	61	31	29	6	25	31	4.21	1.39	.261
		69	16	8	9	0	1	0	156.1	168	97	94	24	64	82	5.41	1.48	.282
Guerrier, Matt	MIN	39	1	1	0	1	0	0	69.2	78	29	26	9	21	37	3.36	1.42	.287
		91	3	1	4	1	0	0	160.1	171	71	65	20	51	94	3.65	1.38	.275
Halladay, Roy	TOR	32	32	16	5	0	4	0	220.0	208	82	78	19	34	132	3.19	1.10	.251
		216	191	95	48	1	24	8	1336.1	1311	599	537	117	333	942	3.62	1.23	.255
Halsey, Brad	OAK	52	7	5	4	0	0	0	94.1	108	53	49	11	46	53	4.67	1.63	.288
		88	40	14	19	0	0	0	286.1	340	180	154	35	99	160	4.84	1.53	.297
Haren, Dan	OAK	34	34	14	13	0	2	0	223.0	224	109	102	31	45	176	4.12	1.21	.258
		96	87	34	35	0	5	0	558.2	565	277	256	70	137	414	4.12	1.26	.262
Hawkins, LaTroy	BAL	60	0	3	2	0	0	0	60.1	73	30	30	4	15	27	4.48	1.46	.300
		569	98	54	71	75	2	0	1016.2	1159	581	537	126	343	671	4.75	1.48	.287
Hendrickson, Mark	TB	13	13	4	8	0	1	1	89.2	81	42	38	10	34	51	3.81	1.28	.241
		140	120	39	47	0	5	2	721.1	843	448	399	87	209	372	4.98	1.46	.291
Hernández, Félix	SEA	31	31	12	14	0	2	1	191.0	195	105	96	23	60	176	4.52	1.34	.262
		43	43	16	18	0	2	1	275.1	256	131	121	28	83	253	3.96	1.23	.245
Hernández, Runelvys	KC	21	21	6	10	0	1	1	109.2	145	87	79	22	48	50	6.48	1.76	.327
		78	78	25	33	0	1	1	435.1	483	275	260	57	177	231	5.38	1.52	.284
Hudson, Luke	KC	26	15	7	6	0	0	0	102.0	109	62	58	7	38	64	5.12	1.44	.276
		57	40	17	17	0	0	0	241.0	233	145	134	25	119	162	5.00	1.46	.259
Janssen, Casey	TOR	19	17	6	10	0	0	0	94.0	103	58	53	12	21	44	5.07	1.32	.275
		19	17	6	10	0	0	0	94.0	103	58	53	12	21	44	5.07	1.32	.275
Jenks, Bobby	CWS	67	0	3	4	41	0	0	69.2	66	32	31	5	31	80	4.00	1.39	.253
		99	0	4	5	47	0	0	109.0	100	47	43	8	46	130	3.55	1.34	.243
Johnson, Jason	BOS	20	20	3	12	0	0	0	106.1	149	81	75	13	35	50	6.10	1.70	.335
		239	219	55	98	0	6	1	1327.2	1489	812	736	176	486	790	4.99	1.49	.284
Johnson, Randy	NYY	33	33	17	11	0	2	0	205.0	194	125	114	28	60	172	5.00	1.24	.250
		556	546	280	147	2	98	37	3798.2	3013	1530	1357	361	1409	4544	3.22	1.16	.217
Jones, Todd	DET	62	0	2	6	37	0	0	64.0	70	31	28	4	11	28	3.94	1.27	.276
		874	1	53	58	263	0	0	969.0	958	459	421	85	402	821	3.91	1.40	.261
Kazmir, Scott	TB	24	24	10	8	0	1	1	144.2	132	59	52	15	52	163	3.24	1.27	.240
		64	63	22	20	0	1	1	364.0	337	171	151	31	173	378	3.73	1.40	.245
Koronka, John	TEX	23	23	7	7	0	0	0	125.0	145	80	79	17	47	61	5.69	1.54	.294
		27	26	8	9	0	0	0	140.2	164	93	92	19	55	71	5.89	1.56	.292
Lackey, John	LAA	33	33	13	11	0	3	2	217.2	203	98	86	14	72	190	3.56	1.26	.246
		150	149	60	49	0	8	5	937.1	962	460	418	90	302	753	4.01	1.35	.265
Ledezma, Wilfredo	DET	24	7	3	3	0	0	0	60.1	60	28	24	5	23	39	3.58	1.38	.254
		83	33	12	17	0	0	0	247.1	275	157	143	30	100	147	5.20	1.52	.283
Lee, Cliff	CLE	33	33	14	11	0	1	0	200.2	224	114	98	29	58	129	4.40	1.41	.278
		109	109	49	28	0	2	0	644.1	653	348	314	88	219	483	4.39	1.35	.261

American League PITCHING

Pitcher	Team	G	GS	W	L	SV	CG	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	K	ERA	WHIP	BAA
Lester, Jon	BOS	15	15	7	2	0	0	0	81.1	91	43	43	7	43	60	4.76	1.65	.295
		15	15	7	2	0	0	0	81.1	91	43	43	7	43	60	4.76	1.65	.295
Lilly, Ted	TOR	32	32	15	13	0	0	0	181.2	179	98	87	28	81	160	4.31	1.43	.254
		185	160	59	58	0	4	2	936.0	908	511	478	144	382	799	4.60	1.38	.250
Liriano, Francisco	MIN	28	16	12	3	1	0	0	121.0	89	31	29	9	32	144	2.16	1.00	.205
		34	20	13	5	1	0	0	144.2	108	46	44	13	39	177	2.74	1.02	.208
Loaiza, Esteban	OAK	26	26	11	9	0	2	1	154.2	179	92	84	17	40	97	4.89	1.42	.288
		360	323	123	108	1	14	6	2034.2	2289	1129	1044	245	579	1352	4.62	1.41	.285
Loe, Kameron	TEX	15	15	3	6	0	1	1	78.1	105	54	51	10	22	34	5.86	1.62	.317
		65	24	12	12	1	1	1	177.0	200	102	90	17	59	82	4.58	1.46	.283
Loewen, Adam	BAL	22	19	6	6	0	0	0	112.1	111	72	67	8	62	98	5.37	1.54	.259
		22	19	6	6	0	0	0	112.1	111	72	67	8	62	98	5.37	1.54	.259
Lohse, Kyle	MIN	22	8	2	5	0	0	0	63.2	80	50	50	8	25	46	7.07	1.65	.308
		184	163	54	62	0	4	3	971.1	1095	555	525	135	308	612	4.86	1.44	.285
López, Rodrigo	BAL	36	29	9	18	0	0	0	189.0	234	129	124	32	59	136	5.90	1.55	.302
		173	147	60	61	0	5	2	937.1	1030	534	503	133	294	631	4.83	1.41	.278
Lugo, Ruddy	TB	64	0	2	4	0	0	0	85.0	75	39	36	4	37	48	3.81	1.32	.240
		64	0	2	4	0	0	0	85.0	75	39	36	4	37	48	3.81	1.32	.240
Mahay, Ron	TEX	62	0	1	3	0	0	0	57.0	54	30	25	7	28	56	3.95	1.44	.250
		301	3	16	10	3	0	0	352.0	331	182	161	50	170	299	4.12	1.42	.246
Marcum, Shaun	TOR	21	14	3	4	0	0	0	78.1	87	44	44	14	38	65	5.06	1.60	.279
		26	14	3	4	0	0	0	86.1	93	44	44	14	42	69	4.59	1.56	.274
Maroth, Mike	DET	13	9	5	2	0	0	0	53.2	64	26	25	11	16	24	4.19	1.49	.295
		134	130	45	60	0	3	1	801.2	910	460	426	107	212	392	4.78	1.40	.289
Mateo, Julio	SEA	48	0	9	4	0	0	0	53.2	62	27	25	6	22	31	4.19	1.57	.297
		210	1	17	12	2	0	0	306.1	286	131	125	45	80	212	3.67	1.19	.247
McCarthy, Brandon	CWS	53	2	4	7	0	0	0	84.2	77	44	44	17	33	69	4.68	1.30	.243
		65	12	7	9	0	0	0	151.2	139	74	74	30	50	117	4.39	1.25	.243
McClung, Seth	TB	39	15	6	12	6	0	0	103.0	120	77	72	14	68	59	6.29	1.83	.294
		85	37	17	24	6	0	0	251.0	259	185	175	40	155	176	6.27	1.65	.267
Meadows, Brian	TB	53	0	3	6	8	0	0	69.2	90	43	40	14	15	35	5.17	1.51	.313
		336	122	47	62	10	3	0	960.2	1146	582	539	139	259	454	5.05	1.46	.299
Meche, Gil	SEA	32	32	11	8	0	1	0	186.2	183	106	93	24	84	156	4.48	1.43	.256
		147	143	55	44	0	4	2	815.1	810	453	421	109	363	575	4.65	1.44	.260
Millwood, Kevin	TEX	34	34	16	12	0	2	0	215.0	228	114	108	23	53	157	4.52	1.31	.272
		292	284	123	87	0	14	5	1774.1	1693	826	760	181	527	1437	3.85	1.25	.250
Miner, Zach	DET	27	16	7	6	0	1	0	93.0	100	53	50	11	32	59	4.84	1.42	.276
		27	16	7	6	0	1	0	93.0	100	53	50	11	32	59	4.84	1.42	.276
Moyer, Jamie	SEA	25	25	6	12	0	2	1	160.0	179	85	78	25	44	82	4.39	1.39	.285
		571	518	216	166	0	30	9	3351.0	3455	1678	1551	414	946	1992	4.17	1.31	.266
Mussina, Mike	NYY	32	32	15	7	0	1	0	197.1	184	88	77	22	35	172	3.51	1.11	.241
		475	475	239	134	0	57	23	3210.1	3058	1384	1296	345	719	2572	3.63	1.18	.251
Nathan, Joe	MIN	64	0	7	0	36	0	0	68.1	38	12	12	3	16	95	1.58	0.79	.158
		327	29	39	16	124	0	0	477.0	357	182	168	47	203	478	3.17	1.17	.206
Otsuka, Akinori	TEX	63	0	2	4	32	0	0	59.2	53	17	14	3	11	47	2.11	1.07	.241
		202	0	11	14	35	0	0	199.2	164	61	54	12	71	194	2.43	1.18	.223
Padilla, Vicente	TEX	33	33	15	10	0	0	0	200.0	206	108	100	21	70	156	4.50	1.38	.266
		227	144	66	61	2	2	2	979.0	980	483	442	102	338	682	4.06	1.35	.262
Papelbon, Jonathan	BOS	59	0	4	2	35	0	0	68.1	40	8	7	3	13	75	0.92	0.78	.167
		76	3	7	3	35	0	0	102.1	73	19	17	7	30	109	1.50	1.01	.199
Peralta, Joel	KC	64	0	1	3	1	0	0	73.2	74	37	36	10	17	57	4.40	1.24	.263
		92	0	2	3	1	0	0	108.1	102	52	51	16	31	87	4.24	1.23	.249
Pérez, Odalis	KC	12	12	2	4	0	0	0	67.0	80	44	42	9	18	48	5.64	1.46	.295
		196	165	58	59	0	4	2	1038.0	1049	527	499	126	283	737	4.33	1.28	.265
Piñeiro, Joel	SEA	40	25	8	13	1	1	0	165.2	209	123	117	23	64	87	6.36	1.65	.311
		185	148	58	55	1	9	3	996.0	1033	524	496	115	327	658	4.48	1.37	.269
Proctor, Scott	NYY	83	0	6	4	1	0	0	102.1	89	41	40	12	33	89	3.52	1.19	.232
		138	1	9	5	1	0	0	172.0	164	91	85	27	64	146	4.45	1.33	.247
Putz, J.J.	SEA	72	0	4	1	36	0	0	78.1	59	20	20	4	13	104	2.30	0.92	.207
		193	0	10	9	46	0	0	205.0	187	84	79	22	63	199	3.47	1.22	.243
Radke, Brad	MIN	28	28	12	9	0	0	0	162.1	197	87	78	24	32	83	4.32	1.41	.307
		378	377	148	139	0	37	10	2451.0	2643	1233	1150	326	445	1467	4.22	1.26	.276
Ray, Chris	BAL	61	0	4	4	33	0	0	66.0	45	22	20	10	27	51	2.73	1.09	.193
		102	0	5	7	33	0	0	106.2	79	37	32	15	45	94	2.70	1.16	.205
Redman, Mark	KC	29	29	11	10	0	2	1	167.0	202	110	106	19	63	76	5.71	1.59	.307
		198	186	64	76	0	12	2	1152.0	1244	635	595	128	374	700	4.65	1.40	.278
Rheinecker, John	TEX	21	13	4	6	0	0	0	70.2	104	46	46	6	19	28	5.86	1.74	.349
		21	13	4	6	0	0	0	70.2	104	46	46	6	19	28	5.86	1.74	.349
Rincón, Juan	MIN	75	0	3	1	1	0	0	74.1	76	30	24	2	24	65	2.91	1.35	.270
		299	3	25	21	3	0	0	353.1	316	149	128	20	138	343	3.26	1.28	.240
Rivera, Mariano	NYY	63	0	5	5	34	0	0	75.0	61	16	15	3	11	55	1.80	0.96	.223
		720	10	59	40	413	0	0	881.2	691	245	224	45	226	783	2.29	1.04	.213
Robertson, Nate	DET	32	32	13	13	0	1	0	208.2	206	98	89	29	67	137	3.84	1.31	.259
		112	105	33	42	1	4	0	655.0	688	365	332	96	225	450	4.56	1.39	.271
Rodney, Fernando	DET	63	0	7	4	7	0	0	71.2	51	36	28	6	34	65	3.52	1.19	.196
		149	0	11	13	19	0	0	163.1	150	85	74	15	78	150	4.08	1.40	.242
Rodríguez, Francisco	LAA	69	0	2	3	47	0	0	73.0	52	16	14	6	28	98	1.73	1.10	.197
		268	0	16	12	106	0	0	316.0	201	87	80	27	130	420	2.28	1.05	.180
Rogers, Kenny	DET	34	33	17	8	0	0	0	204.0	195	97	87	23	62	99	3.84	1.26	.253
		721	433	207	139	28	36	9	3066.0	3180	1585	1427	309	1079	1850	4.19	1.39	.268
Ryan, B.J.	TOR	65	0	2	2	38	0	0	72.1	42	12	11	3	20	86	1.37	0.86	.169
		470	0	18	21	80	0	0	453.2	349	173	161	32	215	551	3.19	1.24	.211

Pitcher	Team	G	GS	W	L	SV	CG	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	K	ERA	WHIP	BAA
Saarloos, Kirk	OAK	35	16	7	7	2	0	0	121.1	149	70	64	19	53	52	4.75	1.66	.308
		123	69	27	25	2	3	2	440.0	501	248	234	50	163	212	4.79	1.51	.292
Sabathia, C.C.	CLE	28	28	12	11	0	6	2	192.2	182	83	69	17	44	172	3.22	1.17	.247
		185	185	81	56	0	12	4	1165.1	1080	552	512	111	427	933	3.95	1.29	.247
Santana, Ervin	LAA	33	33	16	8	0	0	0	204.0	181	106	97	21	70	141	4.28	1.23	.241
		56	56	28	16	0	1	1	337.2	320	179	166	38	117	240	4.42	1.29	.251
Santana, Johan	MIN	34	34	19	6	0	1	0	233.2	186	79	72	24	47	245	2.77	1.00	.216
		218	142	78	31	1	5	3	1089.2	885	412	387	111	312	1146	3.20	1.10	.220
Saunders, Joe	LAA	13	13	7	3	0	0	0	70.2	71	42	37	6	29	51	4.71	1.42	.264
		15	15	7	3	0	0	0	80.0	81	50	45	9	33	55	5.06	1.43	.265
Schilling, Curt	BOS	31	31	15	7	0	0	0	204.0	220	90	90	28	28	183	3.97	1.22	.276
		545	412	207	138	22	82	19	3110.0	2833	1250	1188	326	688	3015	3.44	1.13	.242
Seo, Jae	TB	17	16	1	8	0	0	0	90.0	122	56	50	17	31	39	5.00	1.70	.331
		107	92	25	36	0	1	0	554.1	607	288	263	75	168	312	4.27	1.40	.281
Shields, James	TB	21	21	6	8	0	1	0	124.2	141	69	67	18	38	104	4.84	1.44	.288
		21	21	6	8	0	1	0	124.2	141	69	67	18	38	104	4.84	1.44	.288
Shields, Scot	LAA	74	0	7	7	2	0	0	87.2	70	30	28	8	24	84	2.87	1.07	.217
		293	14	35	29	14	0	0	493.0	410	175	154	35	167	439	2.81	1.17	.225
Silva, Carlos	MIN	36	31	11	15	0	0	0	180.1	246	130	119	38	32	70	5.94	1.54	.324
		226	92	42	32	2	3	1	743.0	893	390	359	97	135	306	4.35	1.38	.302
Sisco, Andrew	KC	65	0	1	3	1	0	0	58.1	66	47	46	8	40	52	7.10	1.82	.289
		132	0	3	8	1	0	0	133.2	134	74	72	14	82	128	4.85	1.62	.264
Snyder, Kyle	KC-BOS	17	11	4	5	0	0	0	60.1	87	51	44	12	20	57	6.56	1.77	.331
		45	29	6	14	0	0	0	181.2	236	132	120	26	51	115	5.94	1.58	.314
Soriano, Rafael	SEA	53	0	1	2	2	0	0	60.0	44	15	15	6	21	65	2.25	1.08	.204
		116	8	4	8	4	0	0	171.0	134	57	55	16	53	177	2.89	1.09	.212
Sowers, Jeremy	CLE	14	14	7	4	0	2	2	88.1	85	36	35	10	20	35	3.57	1.19	.252
		14	14	7	4	0	2	2	88.1	85	36	35	10	20	35	3.57	1.19	.252
Speier, Justin	TOR	58	0	2	0	0	0	0	51.1	47	18	17	5	21	55	2.98	1.32	.235
		459	0	27	20	17	0	0	517.0	463	243	231	80	177	446	4.02	1.24	.237
Street, Huston	OAK	69	0	4	4	37	0	0	70.2	64	28	26	4	13	67	3.31	1.09	.238
		136	0	9	5	60	0	0	149.0	117	45	41	7	39	139	2.48	1.05	.216
Tallet, Brian	TOR	44	1	3	0	0	0	0	54.1	45	24	23	5	31	37	3.81	1.40	.238
		53	6	4	2	0	0	0	90.0	83	45	39	9	46	53	3.90	1.43	.254
Tavárez, Julián	BOS	58	6	5	4	1	1	0	98.2	110	54	49	10	44	56	4.47	1.56	.293
		700	85	77	59	22	2	0	1180.0	1282	650	569	93	457	682	4.34	1.47	.282
Tejeda, Robinson	TEX	14	14	5	5	0	0	0	73.2	83	40	35	10	32	40	4.28	1.56	.288
		40	27	9	8	0	0	0	159.1	150	76	69	15	83	112	3.90	1.46	.252
Thornton, Matt	CWS	63	0	5	3	2	0	0	54.0	46	20	20	5	21	49	3.33	1.24	.229
		137	1	6	9	2	0	0	143.2	130	68	68	20	88	136	4.26	1.52	.241
Timlin, Mike	BOS	68	0	6	6	9	0	0	64.0	78	33	31	7	16	30	4.36	1.47	.305
		961	4	69	68	139	0	0	1099.2	1062	478	434	102	343	809	3.55	1.28	.255
Towers, Josh	TOR	15	12	2	10	0	0	0	62.0	93	62	58	17	17	35	8.42	1.77	.343
		112	97	40	45	1	4	2	619.0	752	365	336	104	100	311	4.89	1.38	.300
Vázquez, Javier	CWS	33	32	11	12	0	1	0	202.2	206	116	109	23	56	184	4.84	1.29	.259
		290	288	100	105	0	20	7	1845.2	1859	961	891	246	493	1602	4.34	1.27	.260
Verlander, Justin	DET	30	30	17	9	0	1	1	186.0	187	78	75	21	60	124	3.63	1.33	.266
		32	32	17	11	0	1	1	197.1	202	87	84	22	65	131	3.83	1.35	.269
Villone, Ron	NYY	70	0	3	3	0	0	0	80.1	75	48	45	9	51	72	5.04	1.57	.250
		543	93	55	57	6	2	0	1027.0	980	593	545	121	553	817	4.78	1.49	.254
Waechter, Doug	TB	11	10	1	4	0	0	0	53.0	67	40	39	6	19	25	6.62	1.62	.310
		60	54	14	25	0	1	1	315.2	355	216	197	59	105	177	5.62	1.46	.282
Wakefield, Tim	BOS	23	23	7	11	0	1	0	140.0	135	80	72	19	51	90	4.63	1.33	.248
		480	339	151	134	22	29	6	2432.0	2354	1329	1162	315	948	1680	4.30	1.36	.253
Wang, Chien-Ming	NYY	34	33	19	6	1	2	1	218.0	233	92	88	12	52	76	3.63	1.31	.277
		52	50	27	11	1	2	1	334.1	346	150	140	21	84	123	3.77	1.29	.270
Washburn, Jarrod	SEA	31	31	8	14	0	0	0	187.0	198	103	97	25	55	103	4.67	1.35	.268
		224	214	83	71	0	6	2	1340.1	1320	634	601	175	403	802	4.04	1.29	.257
Weaver, Jeff	LAA	16	16	3	10	0	0	0	88.2	114	68	62	18	21	62	6.29	1.52	.309
		257	240	86	101	2	13	5	1568.0	1672	854	798	192	428	1044	4.58	1.34	.273
Weaver, Jered	LAA	19	19	11	2	0	0	0	123.0	94	36	35	15	33	105	2.56	1.03	.209
		19	19	11	2	0	0	0	123.0	94	36	35	15	33	105	2.56	1.03	.209
Wellemeyer, Todd	KC	28	0	1	2	1	0	0	57.0	48	25	23	5	37	37	3.63	1.49	.235
		103	0	6	7	3	0	0	162.2	152	99	94	19	111	146	5.20	1.62	.254
Westbrook, Jake	CLE	32	32	15	10	0	3	2	211.1	247	106	98	15	55	109	4.17	1.43	.296
		170	130	56	53	0	11	3	883.2	959	475	427	75	266	471	4.35	1.39	.279
Williams, Todd	BAL	62	0	2	4	1	0	0	57.0	76	36	30	8	19	24	4.74	1.67	.323
		213	0	12	12	2	0	0	218.1	241	113	100	21	83	107	4.12	1.48	.282
Wood, Mike	KC	23	7	3	3	0	0	0	64.2	86	51	41	10	23	29	5.71	1.69	.314
		94	35	13	20	2	0	0	293.1	351	201	180	45	110	158	5.52	1.57	.298
Woods, Jake	SEA	37	8	7	4	1	0	0	105.0	115	51	49	12	53	66	4.20	1.60	.278
		65	8	8	5	1	0	0	132.2	145	69	63	19	61	86	4.27	1.55	.276
Wright, Jaret	NYY	30	27	11	7	0	0	0	140.1	157	76	70	10	57	84	4.49	1.52	.283
		223	168	68	57	2	2	2	962.1	1034	588	542	98	458	687	5.07	1.55	.277
Zito, Barry	OAK	34	34	16	10	0	0	0	221.0	211	99	94	27	99	151	3.83	1.40	.257
		222	222	102	63	0	9	4	1430.1	1228	620	564	148	560	1096	3.55	1.25	.232
Zumaya, Joel	DET	62	0	6	3	1	0	0	83.1	56	20	18	6	42	97	1.94	1.18	.187
		62	0	6	3	1	0	0	83.1	56	20	18	6	42	97	1.94	1.18	.187

National League

FIELDING

CLUB	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP	TP	PB
HOUSTON	.987	162	4406	1753	80	6239	164	0	7
COLORADO	.985	162	4342	1816	91	6249	190	0	8
SAN DIEGO	.985	162	4391	1596	92	6079	138	0	11
SAN FRANCISCO	.985	161	4289	1581	91	5961	132	0	5
ST. LOUIS	.984	161	4289	1782	98	6169	170	0	8
ATLANTA	.984	162	4324	1608	99	6031	146	0	8
ARIZONA	.983	162	4379	1776	104	6259	172	0	11
PITTSBURGH	.983	162	4305	1790	104	6199	168	0	16
PHILADELPHIA	.983	162	4381	1685	104	6170	153	0	11
NEW YORK	.983	162	4384	1638	104	6126	131	0	10
CHICAGO	.982	162	4317	1480	106	5903	122	0	12
LOS ANGELES	.982	162	4381	1797	115	6293	174	0	7
MILWAUKEE	.980	162	4277	1582	117	5976	126	0	3
FLORIDA	.979	162	4300	1588	126	6014	166	0	14
CINCINNATI	.979	162	4337	1599	128	6064	139	0	9
WASHINGTON	.978	162	4309	1501	131	5941	123	0	11

Individual Fielding — 2006 Season (min. 50 games)

CATCHER

PLAYER, TEAM	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP	PB
Alfonzo, E, SF	.992	84	567	31	5	603	3	1
Ausmus, B, HOU	.998	138	929	63	2	994	9	1
Bard, J, SD	.993	71	385	30	3	418	5	0
Barrett, M, CHC	.994	102	727	42	5	774	7	10
Bennett, G, STL	.988	56	243	14	3	260	1	1
Blanco, H, CHC	.998	69	467	34	1	502	10	2
Bowen, R, SD	.994	65	144	14	1	159	1	3
Coste, C, PHI	.988	54	328	12	4	344	0	4
Estrada, J, ARI	.996	108	683	50	3	736	11	4
Fasano, S, PHI	.990	50	265	26	3	294	2	2
LaRue, J, CIN	.995	63	374	38	2	414	9	3
Lieberthal, M, PHI	.991	60	428	33	4	465	2	4
Lo Duca, P, NYM	.987	118	802	59	11	872	4	9
Martin, Jr., R, LAD	.993	117	788	62	6	856	8	5
McCann, B, ATL	.989	124	778	39	9	826	6	5
Miller, D, MIL	.997	98	648	43	2	693	4	3
Molina, Y, STL	.995	127	734	79	4	817	6	7
Olivo, M, FLA	.991	124	732	65	7	804	11	10
Paulino, R, PIT	.988	124	799	72	11	882	3	9
Piazza, M, SD	.987	99	553	34	8	595	3	7
Pratt, T, ATL	.986	54	279	11	4	294	2	3
Ross, D, CIN	.985	75	480	33	8	521	5	4
Schneider, B, WSH	.993	123	691	56	5	752	8	5
Snyder, C, ARI	.995	60	394	35	2	431	6	6
Torrealba, Y, COL	.987	63	337	34	5	376	7	4
Treanor, M, FLA	.993	61	374	26	3	403	2	2

FIRST BASE

PLAYER, TEAM	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Berkman, L, HOU	.994	112	964	71	6	1041	96
Casey, S, PIT	1.000	55	471	20	0	491	44
Clark, T, ARI	.993	53	274	21	2	297	27
Delgado, C, NYM	.994	141	1199	70	8	1277	95
Fielder, P, MIL	.992	152	1259	88	11	1358	113
Garciaparra, N, LAD	.996	118	1059	61	4	1124	113
Gonzalez, A, SD	.995	155	1242	116	7	1365	117
Hatteberg, S, CIN	.996	131	1002	69	4	1075	86
Helms, W, FLA	1.000	88	375	25	0	400	48
Helton, T, COL	.997	145	1367	87	4	1458	156
Hillenbrand, S, SF	.998	58	423	35	1	459	29
Howard, R, PHI	.991	159	1373	91	14	1478	139
Jackson, C, ARI	.990	129	1110	81	12	1203	111
Jacobs, M, FLA	.993	124	931	57	7	995	101
Johnson, N, WSH	.988	147	1165	93	15	1273	91
Lamb, M, HOU	.990	68	475	41	5	521	48
LaRoche, A, ATL	.996	142	1117	97	5	1219	109
Mabry, J, CHC	.994	51	312	29	2	343	21
Niekro, L, SF	.989	58	419	36	5	460	38
Pujols, A, STL	.996	143	1348	110	6	1464	145
Sweeney, M, SF	.995	53	362	36	2	400	35

SECOND BASE

PLAYER, TEAM	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Barfield, J, SD	.987	147	294	381	9	684	84
Belliard, R, STL	.988	54	98	152	3	253	43
Biggio, C, HOU	.989	129	219	334	6	559	80
Burke, C, HOU	.974	69	68	117	5	190	26
Carroll, J, COL	.995	109	186	397	3	586	98
Castillo, J, PIT	.975	145	344	350	18	712	106
Durham, R, SF	.982	133	272	341	11	624	82
Giles, M, ATL	.983	134	258	368	11	637	81
Graffanino, T, MIL	.987	57	111	119	3	233	20
Hudson, O, ARI	.984	157	310	510	13	833	116
Kent, J, LAD	.985	108	217	314	8	539	73
Matsui, K, COL/NYM	.989	52	120	158	3	281	49
Miles, A, STL	.975	88	165	232	10	407	58
Perez, N, CHC	.973	53	72	107	5	184	24
Phillips, B, CIN	.977	142	331	334	16	681	83
Uggla, D, FLA	.980	151	314	423	15	752	112
Utley, C, PHI	.977	156	357	424	18	799	115
Valentin, J, NYM	.988	94	194	286	6	486	52
Vidro, J, WSH	.990	107	224	250	5	479	53
Walker, T, SD/CHC	.978	60	97	125	5	227	32
Weeks, R, MIL	.952	92	177	261	22	460	68

THIRD BASE

PLAYER, TEAM	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Atkins, G, COL	.953	157	98	286	19	403	36
Aurilia, R, CIN	.953	52	24	78	5	107	7
Aybar, W, ATL/LAD	.934	61	23	90	8	121	6
Bell, D, MIL/PHI	.952	143	83	296	19	398	27
Bellhorn, M, SD	.959	50	28	66	4	98	8
Betemit, W, LAD/ATL	.957	79	32	123	7	162	18
Cabrera, M, FLA	.957	157	114	266	17	397	33
Castilla, V, COL/SD	.971	70	55	115	5	175	8
Encarnacion, E, CIN	.916	111	74	197	25	296	17
Ensberg, M, HOU	.963	117	80	230	12	322	25
Feliz, P, SF	.955	159	116	332	21	469	31
Jones, C, ATL	.936	105	87	177	18	282	22
Koskie, C, MIL	.967	70	54	151	7	212	11
Nunez, A, PHI	.959	74	36	151	8	195	10
Ramirez, A, CHC	.965	156	110	252	13	375	17
Rolen, S, STL	.965	142	93	320	15	428	32
Sanchez, F, PIT	.981	99	59	243	6	308	24
Tracy, C, ARI	.935	147	101	260	25	386	27
Wright, D, NYM	.954	153	107	288	19	414	31
Zimmerman, R, WSH	.965	157	152	260	15	427	30

SHORTSTOP

PLAYER, TEAM	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Barmes, C, COL	.969	125	192	371	18	581	89
Cedeno, R, CHC	.956	134	148	357	23	528	64
Clayton, R, CIN/WSH	.966	129	170	340	18	528	54
Counsell, C, ARI	.979	88	127	296	9	432	75
Drew, S, ARI	.978	56	74	149	5	228	35
Eckstein, D, STL	.989	120	178	363	6	547	87
Everett, A, HOU	.990	149	202	479	7	688	105
Furcal, R, LAD	.966	156	269	492	27	788	117
Greene, K, SD	.980	113	138	309	9	456	60
Hall, B, MIL	.967	127	173	321	17	511	56
Lopez, F, WSH/CIN	.954	155	187	389	28	604	79
Ramirez, H, FLA	.963	154	258	411	26	695	111
Renteria, E, ATL	.978	146	185	399	13	597	76
Reyes, J, NYM	.971	149	176	390	17	583	72
Rollins, J, PHI	.984	157	213	446	11	670	96
Vizquel, O, SF	.993	152	205	390	4	599	87
Wilson, J, PIT	.972	131	198	426	18	642	88

OUTFIELD

PLAYER, TEAM	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Abercrombie, R, FLA	.973	93	176	3	5	184	1
Abreu, B, PHI	.995	97	178	4	1	183	0
Alou, M, SF	.978	92	173	1	4	178	0
Amezaga, A, FLA	.977	78	166	2	4	172	0
Bautista, J, PIT	.988	85	154	8	2	164	1
Bay, J, PIT	.991	157	316	10	3	329	1
Beltran, C, NYM	.995	136	357	13	2	372	6
Bonds, B, SF	.985	116	188	6	3	197	0
Borchard, J, FLA	.982	63	101	7	2	110	2
Burke, C, HOU	.990	61	96	2	1	99	0
Burnitz, J, PIT	.984	84	120	1	2	123	0
Burrell, P, PHI	.986	126	204	8	3	215	1
Byrd, M, WSH	.987	71	150	1	2	153	0
Byrnes, E, ARI	.997	137	297	5	1	303	1
Cameron, M, SD	.984	141	367	6	6	379	2
Chavez, E, NYM	1.000	120	209	9	0	218	3
Church, R, WSH	.986	62	144	2	2	148	1
Clark, B, MIL	.985	119	257	2	4	263	0
Cruz Jr., J, LAD	1.000	71	129	0	0	129	0
DaVanon, J, ARI	.979	58	92	0	2	94	0
Dellucci, D, PHI	.990	67	95	1	1	97	0
Diaz, M, ATL	.977	99	166	5	4	175	1
Drew, J, LAD	.983	135	284	3	5	292	0
Duffy, C, PIT	.983	77	166	4	3	173	2
Duncan, C, STL	.948	70	107	2	6	115	0
Dunn, A, CIN	.960	156	279	7	12	298	1
Edmonds, J, STL	.987	99	223	4	3	230	0
Ellison, J, SF	.960	64	46	2	2	50	0
Encarnacion, J, STL	.978	148	265	4	6	275	0
Ethier, A, LAD	.968	109	172	8	6	186	1
Finley, S, SF	.997	130	287	5	1	293	1
Floyd, C, NYM	.987	92	148	3	2	153	0
Francoeur, J, ATL	.973	162	317	13	9	339	4
Freel, R, CIN	.980	105	238	12	5	255	1
Freeman, R, COL	.991	51	107	0	1	108	0
Giles, B, SD	.978	158	299	7	7	313	2
Gonzalez, L, ARI	.996	150	256	3	1	260	1
Green, S, NYM/ARI	.978	131	220	1	5	226	1
Griffey Jr., K, CIN	.979	100	229	6	5	240	0
Gross, G, MIL	.984	59	121	6	2	129	1
Guillen, J, WSH	.988	68	163	3	2	168	0
Hart, C, MIL	.991	61	103	3	1	107	0
Hawpe, B, COL	.987	145	280	16	4	300	3
Hermida, J, FLA	.957	89	177	1	8	186	0
Holliday, M, COL	.979	153	277	8	6	291	2
Jenkins, G, MIL	.977	133	247	6	6	259	2
Jones, A, ATL	.995	153	378	4	2	384	1
Jones, J, CHC	.976	143	275	4	7	286	2
Kearns, A, WSH/CIN	.981	145	354	8	7	369	2
Lane, J, HOU	1.000	98	166	1	0	167	0
Langerhans, R, ATL	.995	119	196	2	1	199	0
Lee, C, MIL	.974	98	145	4	4	153	0
Lofton, K, LAD	.988	120	241	4	3	248	0
McLouth, N, PIT	.982	75	109	1	2	112	1
Milledge, L, NYM	.977	50	80	4	2	86	0
Murton, M, CHC	.988	133	240	3	3	246	2
Nady, X, PIT/NYM	.980	99	187	6	4	197	0
Pagan, A, CHC	.989	58	86	2	1	89	0
Pierre, J, CHC	1.000	162	379	5	0	384	0
Repko, J, LAD	.977	62	82	4	2	88	2
Roberts, D, SD	1.000	127	273	1	0	274	0
Rodriguez, J, STL	.986	51	68	1	1	70	0
Ross, C, FLA/CIN	.985	83	130	3	2	135	0
Rowand, A, PHI	.981	107	251	6	5	262	2
Scott, L, HOU	1.000	60	96	1	0	97	1
Soriano, A, WSH	.969	158	326	22	11	359	9
Sullivan, C, COL	.996	114	225	4	1	230	0
Taguchi, S, STL	.969	123	182	3	6	191	0
Taveras, W, HOU	.986	138	335	9	5	349	3
Victorino, S, PHI	1.000	122	221	11	0	232	3
Willingham, J, FLA	.968	132	206	5	7	218	0
Wilson, P, STL/HOU	.990	128	203	2	2	207	0
Winn, R, SF	.992	141	348	8	3	359	1

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American League

FIELDING

CLUB	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP	TP	PB
BOSTON	.989	162	4324	1663	66	6053	174	0	24
OAKLAND	.986	162	4355	1626	84	6065	173	0	10
MINNESOTA	.986	162	4318	1647	84	6049	135	1	5
SEATTLE	.985	162	4340	1630	88	6058	150	0	16
CHICAGO	.985	162	4347	1655	90	6092	145	2	13
TEXAS	.984	162	4294	1748	98	6140	174	0	11
KANSAS CITY	.984	162	4279	1658	98	6035	189	1	10
TORONTO	.984	162	4285	1712	99	6096	157	0	15
DETROIT	.983	162	4344	1780	106	6230	162	0	6
BALTIMORE	.983	162	4257	1608	102	5967	156	0	15
NEW YORK	.983	162	4331	1593	104	6028	145	0	17
TAMPA BAY	.981	162	4261	1594	116	5971	156	1	8
CLEVELAND	.981	162	4270	1669	118	6057	165	0	7
LOS ANGELES	.979	162	4358	1545	124	6027	154	0	8

Individual Fielding — 2006 Season (min. 35 games, 40 games for outfield)

CATCHER

PLAYER, TEAM	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP	PB
Bako, P, KC	.993	53	258	20	2	280	3	4
Barajas, R, TEX	.984	94	591	35	10	636	2	5
Buck, J, KC	.991	112	615	37	6	658	7	5
Hall, T, TB	.991	61	310	22	3	335	2	3
Hernandez, R, BAL	.985	135	793	69	13	875	5	13
Johjima, K, SEA	.993	144	882	58	7	947	9	10
Kendall, J, OAK	.995	141	924	54	5	983	9	7
Laird, G, TEX	.986	71	392	30	6	428	5	5
Lopez, J, BAL/BOS	.996	38	222	14	1	237	2	3
Martinez, V, CLE	.990	133	753	45	8	806	7	4
Mauer, J, MIN	.996	120	866	44	4	914	7	5
Mirabelli, D, BOS	.994	57	298	18	2	318	3	11
Molina, B, TOR	.997	99	614	48	2	664	6	11
Molina, J, LAA	.986	76	502	50	8	560	4	5
Napoli, M, LAA	.987	94	575	48	8	631	2	2
Navarro, D, TB	.981	54	330	34	7	371	2	5
Paul, J, TB	1.000	52	301	24	0	325	5	0
Pierzynski, A, CWS	.997	132	795	62	3	860	4	10
Posada, J, NYY	.990	134	787	68	9	864	7	13
Redmond, M, MIN	1.000	43	317	21	0	338	2	0
Rivera, R, SEA	.987	35	220	14	3	237	3	6
Rodriguez, I, DET	.998	123	740	59	2	801	7	4
Shoppach, K, CLE	.991	40	208	20	2	230	5	3
Varitek, J, BOS	.994	99	647	28	4	679	3	1
Wilson, V, DET	.997	55	282	30	1	313	2	2
Zaun, G, TOR	.994	72	437	32	3	472	2	4

FIRST BASE

PLAYER, TEAM	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Broussard, B, SEA/CLE	.988	90	652	59	9	720	70
Casey, S, DET	.996	51	467	14	2	483	40
Conine, J, BAL	.996	73	422	30	2	454	47
Garko, R, CLE	.986	45	398	30	6	434	50
Giambi, J, NYY	.985	68	459	11	7	477	43
Gload, R, CWS	.986	49	266	13	4	283	24
Johnson, D, OAK	.995	85	689	64	4	757	96
Kendrick, H, LAA	.994	44	330	29	2	361	43
Konerko, P, CWS	.995	140	1173	67	6	1246	113
Lee, T, TB	.998	112	856	58	2	916	97
Mientkiewicz, D, KC	.996	90	749	42	3	794	83
Millar, K, BAL	.995	98	764	62	4	830	74
Morales, K, LAA	.989	56	424	37	5	466	40
Morneau, J, MIN	.994	153	1297	111	8	1416	113
Overbay, L, TOR	.994	145	1357	93	9	1459	124
Phillips, A, NYY	.988	94	536	27	7	570	56
Quinlan, R, LAA	.992	54	353	24	3	380	40
Sexson, R, SEA	.997	150	1235	110	4	1349	115
Shealy, R, KC	.993	51	418	27	3	448	59
Shelton, C, DET	.994	115	1004	55	6	1065	93
Swisher, N, OAK	.993	90	666	42	5	713	56
Teixeira, M, TEX	.997	159	1480	88	4	1572	158
Wigginton, T, TB	.997	45	302	28	1	331	26
Wilson, C, NYY	.992	35	226	9	2	237	22
Youkilis, K, BOS	.995	127	1035	70	5	1110	110

SECOND BASE

PLAYER, TEAM	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Adams, R, TOR	.987	50	59	98	2	159	18
Belliard, R, CLE	.981	91	169	252	8	429	54
Cairo, M, NYY	.990	45	79	116	2	197	28
Cano, R, NYY	.984	118	230	333	9	572	73
Cantu, J, TB	.973	103	209	252	13	474	65
Castillo, L, MIN	.991	142	267	378	6	651	78
Ellis, M, OAK	.997	123	273	357	2	632	91
Grudzielanek, M, KC	.994	132	261	372	4	637	111
Hill, A, TOR	.987	112	174	345	7	526	93
Iguchi, T, CWS	.988	136	270	371	8	649	76
Infante, O, DET	.977	37	65	108	4	177	30
Inglett, J, CLE	.984	53	112	142	4	258	43
Kennedy, A, LAA	.984	133	205	361	9	575	76
Kinsler, I, TEX	.973	119	247	393	18	658	94
Lopez, J, SEA	.978	150	282	417	16	715	95
Loretta, M, BOS	.994	138	246	389	4	639	99
Polanco, P, DET	.989	108	224	325	6	555	81
Roberts, B, BAL	.985	137	214	375	9	598	98
Scutaro, M, OAK	.994	37	72	93	1	166	32
Wigginton, T, TB	1.000	43	66	116	0	182	31

THIRD BASE

PLAYER, TEAM	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Batista, T, MIN	.954	50	27	97	6	130	6
Beltre, A, SEA	.968	155	136	323	15	474	32
Blalock, H, TEX	.963	122	72	237	12	321	20
Boone, A, CLE	.938	101	56	186	16	258	16
Chavez, E, OAK	.987	134	105	281	5	391	43
Crede, J, CWS	.978	149	114	339	10	463	34
De Rosa, M, TEX	.971	40	19	82	3	104	6
Glaus, T, TOR	.963	145	95	271	14	380	37
Huff, A, TB	.980	60	38	109	3	150	15
Inge, B, DET	.960	159	135	398	22	555	34
Izturis, M, LAA	.936	87	45	145	13	203	12
Lowell, M, BOS	.987	153	143	314	6	463	39
Marte, A, CLE	.962	50	32	118	6	156	14
Mora, M, BAL	.959	154	101	296	17	414	18
Perez, T, TB	.963	40	15	37	2	54	4
Punto, N, MIN	.962	89	53	175	9	237	18
Rodriguez, A, NYY	.937	151	96	262	24	382	24
Teahen, M, KC	.958	109	79	237	14	330	34
Upton, B, TB	.906	50	38	88	13	139	6

SHORTSTOP

PLAYER, TEAM	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Adams, R, TOR	.928	36	41	88	10	139	18
Bartlett, J, MIN	.971	99	131	298	13	442	46
Berroa, A, KC	.969	131	188	366	18	572	95
Betancourt, Y, SEA	.971	157	251	430	20	701	95
Cabrera, O, LAA	.975	152	252	377	16	645	100
Castro, J, MIN	.968	50	67	147	7	221	28
Cintron, A, CWS	.973	41	50	94	4	148	19
Cora, A, BOS	.975	63	66	167	6	239	47
Crosby, B, OAK	.972	95	145	268	12	425	59
Gonzalez, A, BOS	.985	111	163	305	7	475	68
Guillen, C, DET	.956	145	178	428	28	634	88
Hill, A, TOR	.941	63	60	130	12	202	19
Jeter, D, NYY	.975	150	214	381	15	610	81
Lugo, J, TB	.957	73	113	201	14	328	42
McDonald, J, TOR	.960	90	105	231	14	350	57
Peralta, J, CLE	.977	147	235	459	16	710	95
Perez, T, TB	.966	36	47	96	5	148	25
Scutaro, M, OAK	.966	69	86	168	9	263	38
Tejada, M, BAL	.972	150	237	418	19	674	108
Uribe, J, CWS	.977	132	217	373	14	604	84
Young, M, TEX	.981	155	241	492	14	747	113
Zobrist, B, TB	.963	52	86	148	9	243	31

OUTFIELD

PLAYER, TEAM	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Abreu, B, NYY	.984	57	114	6	2	122	0
Anderson, B, CWS	.994	134	305	3	2	310	1
Anderson, G, LAA	1.000	94	192	1	0	193	0
Baldelli, R, TB	.979	91	228	6	5	239	3
Blake, C, CLE	.986	93	210	6	3	219	0
Bloomquist, W, SEA	1.000	59	104	2	0	106	0
Bradley, M, OAK	.980	94	191	4	4	199	0
Branyan, R, TB	.969	55	89	5	3	97	0
Brown, E, KC	.990	134	273	10	3	286	2
Cabrera, M, NYY	.992	127	245	12	2	259	1
Catalanotto, F, TOR	.994	102	143	10	1	154	3
Choo, S, CLE/SEA	.971	43	97	3	3	103	1
Conine, J, BAL	.989	57	85	5	1	91	1
Costa, S, KC	.959	65	142	0	6	148	0
Crawford, C, TB	.991	148	304	10	3	317	0
Crisp, C, BOS	.996	103	246	3	1	250	3
Crosby, B, NYY	1.000	62	64	1	0	65	0
Cuddyer, M, MIN	.981	143	244	11	5	260	2
Damon, J, NYY	.990	131	306	3	3	312	1
De Rosa, M, TEX	.993	64	132	5	1	138	1
DeJesus, D, KC	.990	119	287	12	3	302	1
Dye, J, CWS	.981	146	305	5	6	316	2
Fahey, B, BAL	.954	54	101	2	5	108	1
Figgins, D, LAA	.982	112	265	8	5	278	3
Ford, L, MIN	.986	92	132	4	2	138	2
Gathright, J, KC/TB	.991	130	341	5	3	349	4
Gibbons, J, BAL	.980	44	97	1	2	100	0
Gomez, A, DET	1.000	52	44	2	0	46	0
Granderson, C, DET	.997	157	385	3	1	389	0
Guerrero, V, LAA	.959	126	251	7	11	269	2
Guiel, A, NYY/KC	1.000	41	62	2	0	64	0
Gutierrez, F, CLE	.966	42	85	1	3	89	0
Hairston, J, TEX	1.000	52	53	8	0	61	2
Hinske, E, BOS/TOR	1.000	45	56	3	0	59	1
Hollandsworth, T, CLE	.976	44	76	4	2	82	0
Hollins, D, TB	.982	115	216	5	4	225	1
Hunter, T, MIN	.989	143	343	8	4	355	4
Ibanez, R, SEA	.994	157	301	11	2	314	0
Johnson, R, TOR	.996	133	213	12	1	226	2
Kapler, G, BOS	1.000	68	83	4	0	87	1
Kielty, B, OAK	.993	73	136	3	1	140	1
Kotsay, M, OAK	.993	127	281	6	2	289	2
Lee, C, TEX	.976	51	82	1	2	85	0
Mackowiak, R, CWS	.974	96	149	2	4	155	0
Markakis, N, BAL	.994	145	314	8	2	324	0
Matos, L, BAL	1.000	47	67	0	0	67	0
Matthews, G, TEX	.980	145	340	8	7	355	2
Mench, K, TEX	.992	72	128	3	1	132	1
Michaels, J, CLE	.991	118	216	6	2	224	2
Monroe, C, DET	.980	116	181	12	4	197	2
Murphy, T, LAA	1.000	42	64	2	0	66	2
Nixon, T, BOS	.995	110	212	6	1	219	2
Ordonez, M, DET	.974	148	258	9	7	274	1
Patterson, C, BAL	.989	134	345	7	4	356	4
Payton, J, OAK	.978	137	311	5	7	323	0
Pena, W, BOS	.981	76	146	5	3	154	0
Podsednik, S, CWS	.969	135	245	4	8	257	0
Ramirez, M, BOS	.989	123	175	7	2	184	0
Reed, J, SEA	.992	64	129	3	1	133	0
Rios, A, TOR	.996	125	224	8	1	233	2
Rivera, J, LAA	.974	103	210	13	6	229	1
Sanders, R, KC	.989	73	170	4	2	176	0
Sizemore, G, CLE	.993	160	409	7	3	419	1
Suzuki, I, SEA	.992	159	364	9	3	376	3
Swisher, N, OAK	.984	80	174	5	3	182	3
Thames, M, DET	.977	59	84	1	2	87	0
Tyner, J, MIN	.993	50	129	4	1	134	1
Wells, V, TOR	.988	150	332	4	4	340	3
Wilkerson, B, TEX	.993	82	143	7	1	151	3
Williams, B, NYY	.994	89	154	1	1	156	0

THE BACK PAGE

by Andrew Maraniss

10 things you didn't know about baseball bats...

Perhaps no piece of sporting equipment is as celebrated and mythologized as the baseball bat. Babe Ruth's heavy piece of lumber, George Brett's pine-tar-caked slugger and Sammy Sosa's cork-filled stick have all worked their way into our collective consciousness.

But how much do we really know about these tools of the trade? Our thanks to Old Hickory Bat Company and Louisville Slugger for their help as we get a handle on bats.

WOOD Nearly all major league bats come from ash and maple trees grown in the hardwood forests of the northeastern United States and Canada. While ash is the most popular choice, some players swear by maple because it does not splinter or flake as easily.

LENGTH The longest bat ever used in the majors was likely Al Simmons' 38-inch model, while not surprisingly, Wee Willie Keeler swung the shortest bat at just 30½ inches. Today, most big leaguers swing a 34-inch bat with the low and high extremes at 33 and 35 inches.

WEIGHT Edd Roush of the Cincinnati Reds swung the heaviest piece of lumber at 48 ounces, while Billy Goodman won a batting title in 1950 swinging the lightest bat, at only 30 ounces. Today, most players swing a 31- or 32-ounce bat.

COLOR Batmakers agree that players can be just as picky about the color of their bats as about the weight, length or barrel. Except for special occasions like last year's pink bats on Mother's Day, only earth-tones are allowed in the big leagues — Old Hickory offers unfinished, wine, natural, black, gunstock, red oak, white, ebony and walnut.

QUANTITY Over the course of a 162-game schedule, a major league player may order eight to 12 dozen bats. Adam Lind, a rookie for the Blue Jays last year, made news when he began the year with 12 bats in Double-A and finished the year in the big leagues with 10 bats still remaining.

WHO PAYS? As seriously as big leaguers take their bats — and some players have been known to sleep with them — you might think they dip into their millions to buy their own bats. However, it's the clubs that purchase bats for each player.

BALANCE The general rule of thumb is that the bigger the barrel and the thinner the handle, the more end-weighted the bat will be. As the barrel is shrunk and the handle thickened, the more balanced the bat becomes. It's only a matter of personal preference which style a particular player will choose.

PICKY, PICKY Ted Williams was legendary for his knowledge of wood and his exacting specifications for his Louisville Sluggers — he complained to the company when his grips were

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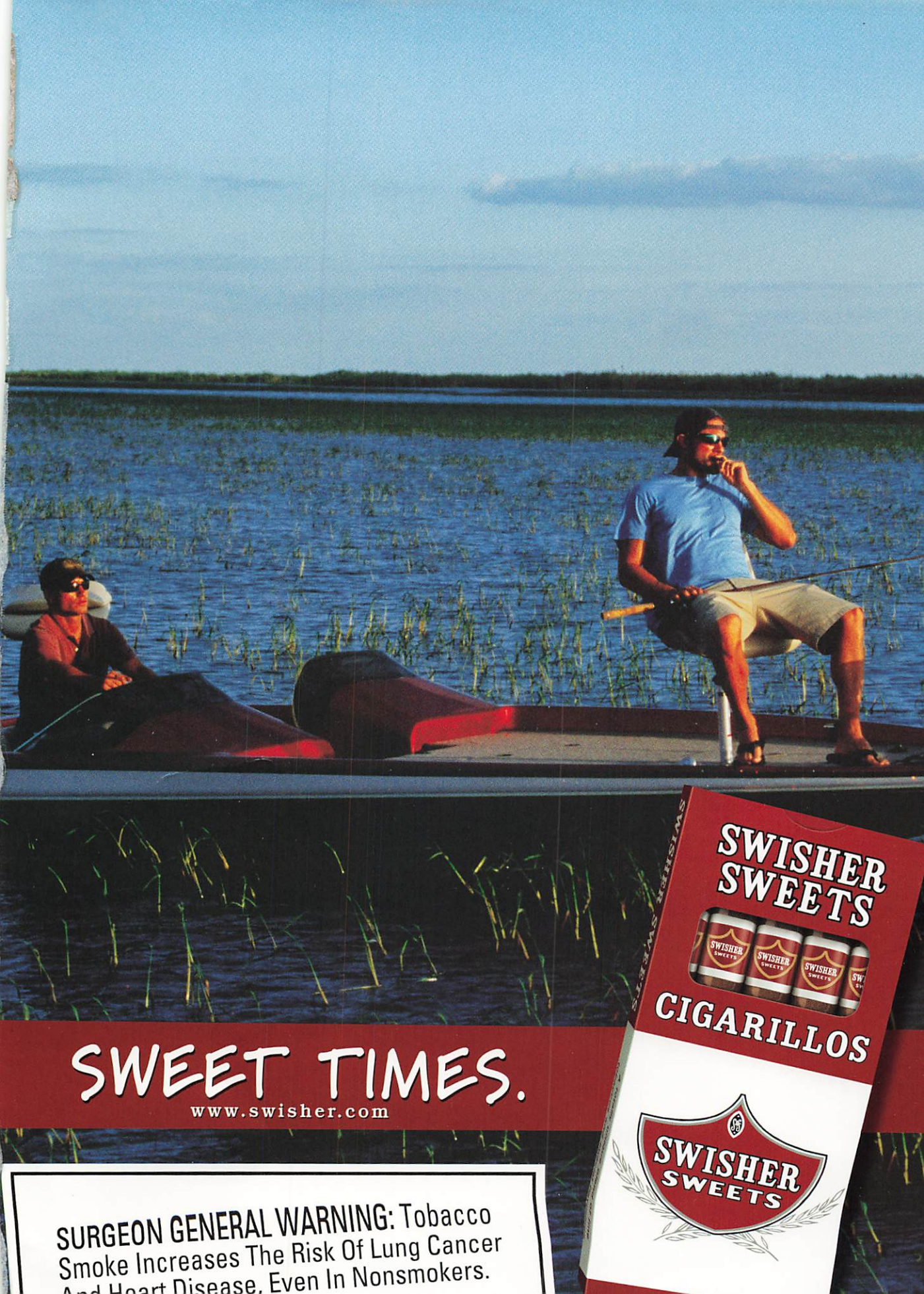
GRAIN Some players swear that the wider the grain in an ash bat, the harder the piece of wood will be. Some players prefer a tighter grain, while others prefer maple, which shows very little if any grain at all. Regardless, straight, evenly spaced grains with little to no waviness and no pin knots are the keys to a good bat.

MODELS Every bat company — and there are close to 30 companies that produce bats for major leaguers — produces hundreds if not thousands of different models, and they all label their bats differently. Louisville Slugger model numbers, for example, refer to a player's last name and how many others with a last name beginning with that letter have come before them. Jose Cardenal's model, the C271, is still the most popular model in use today. At Old Hickory Bat Company, some model numbers refer to a player's name while others refer to Bible verses.

0.005 of an inch off, and he could tell which of six bats was a half-ounce heavier than the rest. Today's players, having grown up on aluminum bats, come into the professional ranks far less educated on wood than their predecessors, but they can be just as picky. One of Old Hickory's favorite customers is Placido Polanco, who knows exactly what he wants in a bat, from the color to the sound it makes when tapped with a finger. Stumble in to the Old Hickory workshop and you might see an employee with his ear to a bat and his finger plucking the barrel — does it have that Polanco sound?



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